Daily Report

Latin America

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Area Deputy Foreign Ministers Discuss Security

PA2409224191 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 21 Sep 91 p2

[Report by Alvaro Galvez Mis]

[Text] The regions's deputy foreign ministers met in a hotel in Guatemala City on 21 September to hold the Fourth Security Meeting, during which they discussed complex issues such as a reduction in the local armies and strict weapons control to ensure peace and democracy throughout the region.

Deputy Foreign Ministers Manuel Villacorta of Guatemala, Ricardo Valdivieso of El Salvador, Jaime Guell Bogran of Honduras, Ernesto Leal of Nicaragua, and Hernan Castro of Costa Rica met on the 14th floor of the Sheraton Hotel to discuss several topics related to Central American security.

Representatives from the OAS, the UN Observer Group in Central America, and the area's armies attended the meeting as observers. Attending on behalf of the Guatemalan Army was General Humberto Raul Angeles Juarez, deputy national defense minister.

A Guatemalan Foreign Ministry official told this newspaper that the purpose of the meeting is to continue discussions on establishing standard security systems throughout Central America. The Foreign Ministry, however, was silent on the preliminary conclusions reached during this meeting. A Foreign Ministry official said that "the issues deal precisely with state security" and cannot be disclosed.

Deputy Foreign Ministry Villacorta described the meeting as important but declined to comment further on the results. The participants have been discussing the delicate topics of reducing the number of weapons and the sizes of armies. Both issues have met with some opposition in some countries of the region. In Guatemala, for example, President Jorge Serrano stated recently that the Army has a small number of soldiers and cannot be reduced as long as there are rebel groups trying to take power through armed means. The Information and Press Department of the Army also feels that the number of soldiers in the Army is below the country's needs.

Costa Rica has often stated that it has a limited amount of civilian security agents to deal with trivial cases. Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas also has plans to reduce the Armed Forces. In fact, he stressed that a couple of battalions were sent to protect the country's bioecological system.

In El Salvador, President Alfredo Cristiani is holding talks with the rebels to find areas of agreement. He recently said that the Armed Forces will be reduced if the rebels lay down their weapons.

IDB, UN To Assist in Waterway Development

PY2509005291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0233 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] United Nations, 23 Sep (EFE)—The Argentine, Bolivian, Brazilian, Paraguayan, and Uruguayan foreign ministers signed technical cooperation agreements for the study of the Paraguay-Parana waterway with the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] and the United Nations Development Program [UNDP] on 23 September. IDB President Enrique Iglesias said the IDB will make a nonreimbursable grant of $7.5 million for development of the waterway project, which will be important for improving the transport system and promoting integration among the five countries.

The countries of the River Plate Basin Treaty, which make up the Intergovernmental Waterway Committee, will provide $1.4 million; the River Plate Basin Financial Fund, $1.7 million; and the UNDP, $485,240 to finance the cost of the project, which is estimated at $11 million.

UNDP manager William H. Draper III welcomed the foreign ministers at the UNDP offices where the agreements were signed. Draper said that their presence showed each country's interest in this project, which is very important for promoting their production and trade.

Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella said that occasionally in the past, some Argentines feared that implementation of this project would cause flooding and others believed it would cause water shortages, but they finally convinced themselves that the waterway will benefit everyone.

Di Tella specially thanked Iglesias because of the announcement that the IDB grant would be "nonreimbursable." He added that this word sounded very pleasant to countries burdened by their debts.

Bolivian Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde Ballivian said that for Bolivia, the waterway is an "extremely important project because it will pave the way to speedier access to the Atlantic and will allow development of a great Bolivian area."

Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek said the waterway project is the result of a "very creative stage of international cooperation and coexistence," which is partly a result of steady, coherent consolidation of democratic principles that "will no longer be displaced, as in the past."

Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken said the Paraguay-Parana waterway linking Puerto Caceres with Nueva Palmira is more evidence of the integration process, as is Mercosur [Common Market of the South] and the Andean Pact.

Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell said that besides studies of the technical, economic, and environmental feasibility of the waterway, the legal framework for regulating transport, dredging, and harbor piloting should also be established. Like his Argentine counterpart, he thanked the IDB and UNDP for the "nonreimbursable" technical cooperation.

The UNDP will be in charge of managing feasibility studies for the waterway. The waterway will increase cargo transported through the River Plate Basin from three to 15 million tons. The River Plate Basin is a region with over 17 million inhabitants and is made up of vast areas of the five South American countries.

Cuba

Nikolayenko Meeting With Castro Reported

FL2409130391 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] The Soviet Union's deputy foreign minister says there will be a new relationship between his country and Cuba. Valeriy Nikolayenko says ideology will no longer be the basis for working with the island nation and that economic subsidies to Cuba also may end. Mr Nikolayenko said the Soviet Union's movement away from communism demands certain modifications in its relations with Cuba.

He met over the weekend with Cuban President Fidel Castro to discuss the trade and the withdrawal of 2,800 Soviet troops from the island.

'Western-Style' Party in Soviet Union Noted

FL2409162991 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Prominent politicians have met in Moscow to lay the foundations of a new Western-style party with which they hope to replace the CPSU as a main force in the USSR. Former Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said since the Communist Party is being dismantled, it leaves a considerable void. He added that it is very important for it to be filled by democratic forces.

Shevardnadze made these statements during the opening of the meeting of the Movement for Democratic Reforms founded in July. Among the founders of the movement are Shevardnadze himself, Moscow Mayor G. Popov, St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak, and Presidential Adviser Alexandr Yakovlev.

The Movement for Democratic Reforms is planning to hold a congress in December and a new party in the USSR could result from it.

Commentary Rebuts Bush's Remarks on Free Trade

FL2409161691 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 24 Sep 91

["Our Opinion" commentary read by Orlando Contreras]

[Text] The 46th session of the UN General Assembly continues in New York today. As it was agreed a week ago, the agenda will include the discussion of the need to put an end to the 30 years of economic, trade, and financial blockade against Cuba. I believe it is still a bit premature to analyze these sessions which have just started. It is evident that close to the beginning of the next millennium, one of the most important issues for mankind is the search for real paths to the building of a world based on principles of equality.

In our times, with all the scientific and technical information accumulated by mankind, two-thirds of the earth's population live in a precarious situation, if not in poverty, and the most abominable backwardness while the remaining third monopolizes the wealth. In the poorer countries there is a desperate struggle so that the lack of calories and proteins, and their direct and indirect consequences, does not kill millions of human beings or at least condemn them to a precarious life. In the richer countries the struggle of politicians and scientists is to prevent the excess of calories and proteins from killing millions of well-to-do people from diseases caused by overeating.

The wealthy make sure they have a monopoly of what the Western culture calls comfort: ample consumption, all kinds of incentives that in excess sometimes produce a true torture caused by overabundance. On the other hand, those who are poor on earth are given a life of constant insecurity ranging from extreme poverty to precarious survival. They are on the fringe of their own culture and of universal culture except for the culture of avoidance and domination which is generated by the wealthy for mass consumption.

The powerful have come to an agreement for the enjoyment of peace. But the poor live with the everlasting threat of new conflicts which are now known as low-intensity conflicts. Social injustice and the abusive inequality in the distribution of wealth constitute a permanent threat for peace. The double standard policy practiced by the wealthy is a mockery to the underdeveloped world.

Yesterday, President Bush said at the United Nations, and I quote: Free and open trade, including the unconditional access to markets and credits, offers to those developing countries the means for self-sufficiency and economic dignity. End of quote. But, what is the reality? The wealthy are the first ones to apply protectionist policies. Are the United States and the EEC not strictly protectionist in relation to world trade in basic agricultural products such as grain and sugar?

Can Bush, with a minimum of honesty, unblushingly affirm that his country has opened its doors to credit and to markets? The experience of underdeveloped countries indicates the opposite. And Cuba, which has suffered 30 years of the Yankee blockade, knows how much free trade and opening of markets and credit the United States allows. These are issues which must be discussed in one way or another in this 46th session of the UN General Assembly.

Castro Diaz-Balart Meets Iran's President

FL2509014191 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2357 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has met with Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, executive secretary of the Cuban Atomic Energy Commission, at the Government Palace. During

the meeting, the leaders discussed bilateral cooperation ties and current international affairs. They also emphasized the importance of continued development of cooperation between the two countries for the peaceful use of atomic energy and the strengthening of existing ties. The Cuban delegation will tour several scientific institutions as well as Iranian facilities which utilize nuclear energy in a peaceful manner.

Official on Visit by Spanish Conservative Leader

PA2209150591 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1542 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Havana, 20 Sep (EFE)—Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Cuban Council of State, has said here in statements to the Spanish media that the visit of Spanish conservative politician Manuel Fraga to Cuba "is a gesture of courage."

Fraga, president of the Autonomous Government of Galicia (northwestern Spain), will visit Cuba on an invitation by the government of that country between 23 and 29 September.

Fernandez, who was designated by the Cubans to host the Spanish visitor, added that his country is going to receive Fraga "as a friend," despite the ideological differences separating the conservatism of the Galician leader and the orthodox Marxism that guides the present Cuban Government.

"Things are no longer black and white," Fernandez stated regarding the ideological differences, adding that "despite being rightists, the Galicians, given their own historical evolution, are capable of understanding the difficulties of poor countries."

The vice president of the Cuban Council of State, who is considered as one of the men closest to President Fidel Castro, also voiced his confidence that Castro will receive Fraga, whom he always called "President Fraga," because "nothing seems to point in a different direction."

In addition, Fernandez emphasized that "Cuba has an old tradition of links with Spain, because of our language, our culture, and our history."

In his statements to the Spanish media, Fernandez never hesitated to describe the visit of the Galician president as "a political trip," because he comes to the island as current president of an autonomous Spanish region and with the support of the voters in that community.

Fraga has declared that the reason for his visit to Cuba is to make contacts with the Galician community on the island, which was once one of the largest in the world outside of Galicia.

Regarding the formalities of the trip, Pedro Chavez, president of the People's Government of the city of Havana, formally invited Fraga to visit Cuba. This invitation was later reiterated by the Cuban Embassy in Madrid.

Regarding the contacts that Fraga will make with Cuban politicians, aside from Castro, his meeting with Osmani Cienfuegos, vice president of the Council of Ministers and responsible for the tourism development plans of Cuba, should be pointed out. The development of tourism is one of the most important priorities of Cuba because it represents a source of foreign currency.

In this regard, the Cuban Government considers that Fraga, who pioneered the development of tourism in Spain as tourism minister in the sixties, can contribute his experience to this sector because he will be accompanied by Galician tourism entrepreneurs.

It should be added that Fraga's visit to Cuba has generated a great expectation among the Spanish media, because, according to Cuban sources, the Galician president will be accompanied by more than 60 journalists.

The Cuban media are also placing great importance on the unusual visit, and today the newspaper GRANMA, mouthpiece of the Communist Party of Cuba, reported the arrival of Fraga—which is scheduled to take place on 23 September—on its front page.

Galician President To Discuss Fishing, Tourism

FL2409023091 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Mr. Manuel Fraga (Iribarra), president of the Autonomous Government of Galicia, is scheduled to arrive in Cuba within the next few hours. According to information we have here, Galicia is a region of Spain, located in the northeast section of the Iberian Peninsula. The region is composed of the Coruna, Lugo, Orence, and Pontevedra Provinces. It is a mountainous and very fertile region. It excells in agriculture as well as having many industries, mines, and metallurgy. The region is also rich in textiles and fishing. It also has very good ports.

During Mr. Fraga's visit the Plaza de Galicia, on Calzada del Cerro and Penon Street, will be dedicated, reciprocating the Galician community's gesture of giving one of their city streets the name of Cuba. Cuban and Galician authorities are extremely interested in these bilateral exchanges with the members of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce, which is headed by Julio Garcia Olivera.

It is important to note that 30 percent of Spain's fishing industry, as previouly mentioned, is supported by Galicia, which represents a very important sector in possible negotiations with Cuba. Our fishing industry demonstrates good possibilities for development. As part of the secretariats represented by the delegation headed by Mr. Manuel Fraga, tourism and fishing figure prominently. These are spheres which Cuba has selected for important development.

Mr. Manuel Fraga, president of the Autonomous Government of Galicia, has served the Spanish Government in the department of tourism and was a participant in the great tourism development of Spain, which last year welcomed 54 million tourists with earnings of $17 billion.

Met by Castro

FL2409115691 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Mr. Manuel Fraga Iribarne, the president of the Autonomous Government of Galicia, arrived in the early hours of this morning in Havana for an official, friendly visit that will last until 29 September. The Galician politician was met at Jose Marti Airport by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the president of the Councils of State and Ministers; other Cuban officials; and representatives of the Spanish Embassy in Havana. Dozens of members of the Galician community in our country were also present, and they gave him an enthusiastic welcome. Of the 108 Spanish associations registered in Cuba, 54 belong to the Galicians and are located in Havana.

The president of the Government of Galicia, a region in northwestern Spain, has already visited the major nations of this hemisphere where Galician communities have settled. In addition to his interest in his fellow countrymen in Cuba, of whom there are about 5,000, Mr. Fraga will visit places of cultural, scientific, and economic interest during his stay in Cuba. This morning he is scheduled to tour places in Habana Vieja, including the former Galician Center, and lay a wreath at the Jose Marti Monument in Revolution Square.

On 27 September the visitor will travel to Manati, Las Tunas Province, where he spent part of his childhood, since his parents were immigrants. The official delegation accompanying the Spanish rightist leader is made up of secretaries of the Galician Regional Government, parliamentarians, and colleagues. About 30 Spanish businessmen, most of whom are Galician, and about 60 Spanish reporters interested in Fraga Iribarne's visit are also in Havana.

Confers With Castro

FL2509120591 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met at the Palace of the Revolution with the delegation from the autonomous community of Galicia, which is headed by Manuel Fraga Iribarne. A large group of Galician businessmen and reporters from the major Galician and Spanish papers also participated in the meeting. During the day, Mr. Fraga carried out an extensive schedule of activities in Havana. A summary of his first day in Cuba follows.

The Galician politician was met at Jose Marti Airport by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers. Dozens of members of the Galician community in Cuba were also present and gave him an excited welcome. The president of the autonomous region of Galicia in northwestern Spain has already visited other nations in our hemisphere where large Galician communities have settled. His stay among us will last until 29 September.

Fraga received the Illustrious Guest Medal from Havana Mayor Pedro Chavez in the courtyard of the Havana City Museum before a group of prominent Cubans and surrounded by the delegation that is accompanying him. In a voice that faltered several times from emotion, the Galician president recalled the personal ties that connect him with Cuba, as is the case with thousands of immigrants who found love, shelter, and happiness in our fertile land. Fraga stated that Galicia and he himself are willing to do everything possible to bring about closer relations of friendship and respect between our nation and the international community.

After a brief tour of historic sites in Habana Vieja, guided by city historian Eusebio Leal, he visited the Galician Center. Moving moments occurred there. He was met by the presidents of 49 Galician associations located in Havana. Alfredo Gomez, president of the Natives of Galicia Beneficent Association, declared Fraga an honorary member of that assocation. In his tour of the Galician Center, he visited the offices of various Galician associations and also held animated and lengthy discussions with their representatives. In the art gallery he had the opportunity to admire an exhibit of paintings by Manuel Valeia, a Vivero-born painter living in Cuba.

The rest of that afternoon was devoted to meetings with members of Galician associations, including the Natives of Ortigueira Beneficent Association. There, Fraga signed the document by which he was declared honorary president by agreement of the members. He toured a small exhibit of handicrafts made as part of an occupational therapy course for the elderly under the direction of a teacher sent [words indistinct]. In speaking to those gathered there, the Galician president expressed his government's intention to forge closer ties with Galician communities abroad and contribute as far as possible to the well-being of Galicians living outside their native land.

Chinese Delegation Arrives in Santiago de Cuba

FL2009205691 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Yang Rudai, a member of the Chinese Communist Party [CPC] Politburo, arrived in Santiago de Cuba at the head of a delegation. It was received at the airport by Felix Cardonne, a member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] provincial politburo. The visit is part of a process to strengthen the ties between the PCC and CPC and mutually learn about the situation in both countries.

Rudai and his delegation will tour places of historical and economic interest, such as the construction projects for the Fourth PCC Congress and for tourism, the clinical-surgical hospital, and the obstetrics clinic, and will also meet with a Committee for the Defense of the Revolution in Santiago

Esteban Lazo, first PCC secretary in Santiago de Cuba Province, accompanied the Chinese delegation during their visit to the city, and Rudai expressed his gratitude for all the courtesies shown him during his visit to Cuba.

Meets With Castro; Departs

FL2309181091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Yang Rudai, a member of the Politburo of the Chinese Communist Party [CPC], departed today to return to his country after completing his one-week visit to our country. The Chinese delegation, which was also made up of seven CPC members, toured places of socioeconomic and cultural interest in Havana and met with officials of the Cuban Government and the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC]. They also visited Santiago de Cuba and Varadero.

The high-ranking Chinese delegation was seen off at Jose Marti Airport by Carlos Aldana, secretary of the PCC Central Committee. A short time earlier, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro had held a friendly meeting with the Chinese guests, to which Yang Rudai referred in his statements to Cuban television.

[Begin Yang recording in Chinese with simultaneous translation into Spanish] During this friendly visit this CPC delegation has made, we had the honor of having a friendly meeting with Comrade Fidel Castro, and we spoke for a long time. During our tours here in Cuba, we have witnessed the high prestige Comrade Fidel Castro enjoys among the Cuban masses.

During our tours, we have been able to observe the active efforts being made by both the party organizations at the various levels and the Cuban people in general to overcome ...[rephrases] to respond to the call by the PCC to overcome the temporary difficulties Cuba is facing. The Cuban people in general, at their different places of work, are responding actively to the call by the PCC and achieving successes in their work in honor of the Fourth PCC Congress.

The gesture by Comrade Fidel Castro—in spite of the fact that he is very busy, he has a lot of work—in coming personally to our hotel this morning to say goodbye to us shows the profound friendship that exists between our two parties and our two peoples. I want Cuban television to convey our delegation's deep thanks and warm greetings to all PCC members and the Cuban people in general. Thank you very much. [end recording]

PRC Specialist Teaches Medical Courses

FL2309130691 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] A military medical team from the PRC headed by specialist (Wu Jianhun) has fulfilled an agreement established with the Revolutionary Armed Forces to train medical personnel in acupuncture and traditional medicine. Professor (Wu Jianhun) recently concluded his visit to Cuba, but during his stay he gave courses at the basic and advanced levels in areas of traditional medicine and acupuncture for nurses, technicians, and doctors.

He also transmitted to Cuban personnel knowledge for treating illnesses that are common in our country, such as sacrolumbago, problems with cervical vertebrae, painful lesions in the extremities, and asthma. (Wu Jianhun), who is also the head of the department of acupuncture of the school of traditional Chinese medicine at the university of the People's Liberation Army, stressed what for him is a duty: teaching and offering his experiences to Cuban doctors.

TANA's Toriello on Anti-Imperialist Position

PA2509014191 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Interview with Guillermo Toriello, former foreign minister of Guatemala and president of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America, TANA, by Susana Del Calvo; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Del Calvo] Dr. Toriello, we would like to know: What has been the organization's most important issue during the last 10 years?

[Toriello] The most important thing for the organization was its foundation. It was founded in Managua, Nicaragua, at a most difficult moment—when Reagan was in power; when he had the Santa Fe Document I under his arm; and when he was threatening Nicaragua, Central America, and Cuba with that famous maneuver—Hawkeye II.

A group of Nicaraguans got together with important people from all over the world. Sergio Mendez Arceo, who was called the Red Bishop of Cuernavaca, came from Mexico. Three important men came from Cuba: Santiago Alvarez, Julio del Riveral, and a cartoonist, [name indistinct]. Venezuela, Guatemala, and the Caribbean Islands were also represented.

We could say that it was a small group but it was enthusiastic; and it endorsed the basic principles that—I believe—are still in effect because they are based on the lofty ideals of our liberators. I believe that this is the most significant thing because it includes Simon Bolivar and all those who fought to achieve the independence of Latin America and the Caribbean. Their guidelines and their revolutionary and patriotic actions are our true ideals.

I believe that the most significant thing is the fact that we have celebrated 10 years of constant work and cooperation with the people for their defense. We have stated our solidarity with them; and we have reported the villainies, aggressions, and crimes perpetrated by the United States. We cannot refer to this or that U.S. Administration because they are all imperialists; they are all equally evil, like I said in one of my books.

The United States actually has a single party, meaning the party for intervention, domination, and hegemony; it is divided into two parties for internal purposes. They are actually the same thing, be they Democrats or Republicans; they represent financial capital, on the one hand, and the military-industrial complex on the other hand.

I can make a quick assessment and say that the most important thing at this point, when many parties have cast aside their ideals and many people have fallen prey to despair and acceptance, is that TANA has emerged stronger with its ideal—anti-imperialism. This ideal can unite all the people who have a modicum of respect for the sovereignty, independence, and self-determination of their homelands.

Everyone may participate without discrimination or subjective attitudes—which is what happens in political parties, where most want to be a leader and no one wants to be a follower—and everyone may struggle on an equal basis for a just struggle: anti-imperialism.

[Del Calvo] Why did you decide to grant a medal to Pedro Arbizu Campo posthumously?

[Toriello] We did it to mark the centennial of his birth but, above all, we did it because we celebrated our 10th anniversary and we wanted to honor one of the great patriotic leaders of the anti-imperialist struggle. Mr. Arbizu, as the declaration said, has all the characteristics of the people who deserve such a recognition. Also, he has actually been the leader of Puerto Rico's independence struggle in this century and he sowed the seed of his struggle in Puerto Rico's heartland. He founded the Nationalist Independentist Party and his fellow countrymen have followed his ideals. We must choose prominent people when granting medals, because it is not a simple distribution of medals. It is actually a selective action, and it is earned by men of his stature.

Culture Ministers Meet at Conference Opening

PA2109024291 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Report by Estrella Diaz]

[Text] The fourth meeting of ministers of culture and of authorities in charge of cultural policies in Latin America and the Caribbean opened on 19 September at Havana's Convention Center. President Fidel Castro attended the meeting.

While dedicating the meeting, Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart said that now, in the midst of difficulties, we are seeing with delight that our meeting is taking place at a moment when the will to unite is spreading from Rio Grande to Patagonia.

The Guadalajara Presidential Summit meeting two months ago makes this unification evident, Hart said.

[Begin Hart recording] The historic Guadalajara meeting and its objective, analyses, and conclusions represent clear support for our discussions. [end recording]

Hart also referred to the necessity of Latin American unity. He said that the objective of this meeting is to accelerate the unity process and to move to more dynamic, coordinated, and efficient actions. He said that this is what Cuba wants. He noted that as Cuba sees it, Latin America's integration is not only viable, it is also necessary in view of the demands posed by today's world and the need of presenting ourselves as one single, strong, and honorable nation.

[Begin Hart recording] It is important to note the significance of the past three meetings and to point out the objectives and the scope of the meeting we are initiating in Havana today. The most important aspect of previous meetings is that we have been able to discuss key aspects of our policies and ideas, of plans for continental integration in the framework of culture.

In spite of the fact that we have different political systems, legislations, methods, and plans of action, we have been able to succeed because the common culture that unites us has predominated. This is why we can responsibly tell our governments that in the field of culture, there is no antagonism preventing integration or the pursuit of unity because going beyond what is of local validity only, we share a road that encourages and requires integration and that contributes to integration.

This can be done only with basis on principles such as those expressed by the president of Mexico, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, when he said at the Guadalajara summit of chiefs of state and government that unity does not mean uniformity.

These are the most important conclusions of the three meetings that have already been held, as I see it. [end recording]

Victor Florez, president of the Mexican Council for Culture and Art; and Eduardo Portella, assistant director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, also participated at the opening ceremony for this meeting, which will be held behind closed doors until next Saturday. Delegates from 30 nations and from 15 nongovernment organizations linked to the promotion and development of culture in the area are participating.

Conference Ends

PA2309171691 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1400 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] In closing the fourth meeting of culture ministers and authorities in charge of political culture in Latin America and the Caribbean, Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart said that this region has deep cultural and patriotic sentiments and a self-styled and universal integrationist vocation.

Following three days of sessions in Havana, the participants approved a declaration on the issues that were discussed, including the creation of a Latin American and Caribbean Fund for Culture and Art and a Common Market for Books, Movies, and Television productions.

The document states that a respectful and enriching dialogue has taken place in a region that comprises countries with different political systems and laws. The document notes that this dialogue will permit the discussion of problems and the search for actions that integration requires.

In 1992 the culture ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean will meet in Caracas, Venezuela.

Caribbean Development Bank Official Begins Visit

FL2409125891 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1230 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Mr. Neville B. Nicholls, the president of the Caribbean Development Bank, has arrived in Cuba at the invitation of the Cuban National Bank. During his stay here, Mr. Nicholls will meet with officials of the bank and other national agencies, in addition to visiting economic centers in order to establish possible channels of cooperation in the sugar-derivatives industry, tourism, and the food industry, among others.

Sports Agreement Signed With Costa Rica

PA2309203191 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1400 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Cuba and Costa Rica have taken an important step toward Latin American integration with the signature of the first international technical cooperation agreement in the field of sports in the history of the two countries.

The agreement provides for Costa Rican assistance in bowling, raquetball, and soccer. Cuba will offer assistance in volleyball, boxing, sports medicine, and other fields.

Korean Advisors Work at Moa Nickel Plant

FL2309115891 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] A group of 22 Koreans is providing technical cooperation at the (Gustavo Machin) Nickel-Working Complex in Moa. They are to stay here for three years, two of which have already passed. During this time they have been able to transmit their experience to the Cuban workers and help the latter raise their technical level.

[Begin recording of unidentified worker in Korean with simultaneous translation into Spanish] We are trying to train 195 comrades as skilled workers. We think it is a great success. It is the greatest success of our work. We feel very good. We are very happy. Now the Cuban comrades have to do everything. [end recording]

Haiti

Aristide Denies Impending Army Discharges

FL2409205491 Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles International in French 1145 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is due to leave this morning for the United States where he will address the UN General Assembly. Yesterday, President Aristide made a point of meeting the soldiers posted at the National Palace. He wanted to make them realize the significance of their duties. The president took the opportunity to convey a message to the Haitian people. He advised the people that this first trip since he came to power was part of his mandate. [passage omitted]

The priest-president further denied rumors that soldiers would be discharged from the Army. According to him, those rumors are just maneuvers designed to interfere with the harmony which exists between the Army and the people. The Haitian head of state stated that the Army's budget was the third largest in the 1991-92 fiscal budget. President Aristide also called on the military and the police to intensify the fight against criminals. [passage omitted]

New Health, Foreign Ministers Appointed

FL2009151791 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] There are two new ministers in the Rene Preval government. They are Dr. Claude Jean-Francois, who has been appointed minister of public health and population, and Mr. Jean- Robert Sabalat, who has been appointed minister of foreign affairs. These two ministers have replaced respectively Dr. Daniel Henrys and Mrs. Marie-Denise Fabien Jean-Louis.

We have to say that rumors have been circulating about the dismissal of Mrs. Marie-Denise Fabien Jean-Louis from the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since the beginning of the week. These rumors affected some employees so much that they did not even work. They expressed their worries and said they would not agree with a possible dismissal yesterday at a news conference.

As regards former Health Minister Dr. Daniel Henrys, on the one hand, his departure follows his conflict with

the Haiti State University Hospital [HUEH] officials that he fired on 6 September 1991 after they published a memorandum in which they outlined the poor relations with the Ministry of Public Health; in the same memorandum, they said that in the Ministry of Public Health some people are opposed to reforms in the HUEH. On the other hand, Dr. Daniel Henrys' departure follows accusations by the Lavalas [Avalanche] Health Committee at a news conference that he is a protector of macoutes within the Ministry of Public Health. It must be noted that these two sectors requested Minister Daniel Henrys' departure. The head of government later supported the minister in the work he was performing at the ministry.

It is to be noted also that it is the third cabinet reshuffle of the Rene Preval government. The first one was the departure of Bayard Vincent, who was replaced by Karl Auguste at the Ministry of Justice; the second one was the dismissal of Smarck Michel and Ernst Verdieu, who were replaced by Jean-Francois Chamblain and Mrs. Myrtho Celestin Saurel as ministers of commerce and industry, and social affairs respectively.

Port-au-Prince Public Prosecutor Resigns

FL2009201291 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Dr. Elliott Arvelot, the Port-au-Prince public prosecutor resigned 19 September. He submitted his resignation to Justice Minister Karl Auguste. He informed the justice minister of his decision to resign on the phone. He said he made this decision following a number of attacks made against him by a group of demonstrators who gathered in front of the Public Prosecutor's Office in the Port-au-Prince Civil Court on 18 September.

Dr. Arvelot is the second public prosecutor to submit his resignation within four months, following Dr. Josue Pierre's resignation last June.

It is to be noted that since the new government came to power in February 1991, at least three changes have been made in the Port-au- Prince Public Prosecutor's Office. After Dr. Josue Pierre resigned, Dr. Antony Alouidor [his replacement] was fired.

Interim Public Prosecutor Named

FL2009205591 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] A new interim public prosecutor has just been appointed to the Port-au-Prince Public Prosecutor's Office. His name is (Kesner Michel Thermezie), who replaces Dr. Elliot Arvelot following his resignation. The new interim public prosecutor, (Thermezie), was one of the public prosecutors at the Lafontant trial of 29 July 1991.

South Korean President To Visit 25 Sep

PA2309184491 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Report by Juan Manuel Diaz]

[Text] The Foreign Relations Secretariat has announced that South Korean President No Tae-u will begin a three-day official visit to Mexico on 25 September.

According to the Foreign Relations Secretariat, No Tae-u will visit Mexico on 25, 26, and 27 September.

The visit follows an invitation by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, and it is aimed at strengthening bilateral commercial, investment, and cultural agreements.

The Foreign Relations Secretariat announced in a communique that this will be the first visit by a South Korean president to a Latin American country.

Aside from meeting with President Salinas de Gortari, No Tae-u's agenda includes meetings with Foreign Relations Secretary Fernando Solana and Jaime Serra Puche, secretary of Commerce and Industrial Development, to analyze the possible signing of future bilateral agreements.

The South Korean president's visit coincides with the celebration of the 16th Plenary Meeting of Mexican-Korean Businessmen. This meeting will be attended by businessmen from both nations interested in investing in tourism, scientific, and technological projects.

German Ambassador on Bilateral Relations

PA2409195691 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Mexico is a strategic country for the new, unified Germany in establishing cooperation between the EEC and the Group of Rio, comprised of Latin American countries. German Ambassador to Mexico Peter Dinges made that statement at the inauguration of the third annual congress of the Mexican-German Jurists Association at the Foreign Secretariat building.

Dinges said German businessmen have great expectations regarding the changes in Mexican foreign investment law as a result of the trilateral treaty signed with the United States and Canada.

German investments in our country currently total more than $2 billion. According to Ambassador Dinges, those investments will grow between $300 and $500 million a year.

The Mexican-German Jurists Association congress will end on 27 September. It includes daily sessions to study legal aspects of bilateral relations, with the participation of approximately 20 German lawyers.

Arianespace To Launch Satellites in 1993, 1994

PA2509003191 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Report by Luis Perez]

[Text] The French firm Arianespace will put Mexican satellites Solidaridad I and Solidaridad II into orbit in late 1993 and early 1994. Communications and Transportation Secretary Andres Caso Lombardo and Charles Bigot, Arianespace president and general director, signed a contract to launch the telecommunications satellites. With the Solidaridad satellite system, Mexico will remain on the vanguard of telecommunications, one of the most advanced fleets in the world, said Caso Lombardo.

[Begin Caso recording] These state of the art satellites represent a considerable step forward compared to the Morelos satellites manufactured 10 years ago. The new satellites weigh close to 3 tons and have more than double the power of the Morelos satellite. Arianespace competed fairly in the bidding that has ended with the signing of this contract. [end recording]

The Solidaridad satellites constitute second generation telecommunications satellites and will be built by Hughes Aircraft Communications, a U.S. company. These satellites will be in operation for 13 or 14 years. As part of the $148 million contract that was signed, Arianespace will launch the satellites into orbit and provide technical assistance, training, and participation in the Aeronautics and Space School in Toulouse, France. In addition, training in telemetry and orbit monitoring and maintenance will be provided at the German space organization, BLR. The Solidaridad I and II satellites will be launched into orbit from the Kourou space center, French Guiana, in late 1993 and early 1994.

Costa Rica

Foreign Minister Praises Bush's UN Speech

PA2409161291 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1204 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] United Nations, 24 Sep (NOTIMEX)—U.S. President George Bush has proposed that the United Nations promote a new world now that confrontations between the two superpowers are over, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernard Niehaus said in a statement to NOTIMEX.

Niehaus stressed "the big difference" between the speech delivered by President Bush at the United Nations on 23 September and speeches delivered here on previous occasions.

"This time he (Bush) did not talk about confrontation between the superpowers but of cooperation to build peace," Niehaus said.

Niehaus referred to a paragraph in President Bush's speech regarding "minor conflicts that continue, such as the one in El Salvador and others, which deserve the international community's attention because they cause human rights violations."

In regard to that part of President Bush's speech, Niehaus said that for a long time Costa Rica has taken the path of peace and supports all initiatives contributing to peaceful relations among peoples.

Foreign Economic Assistance Linked To Reforms

PA2509014391 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 19 Sep 91 p 5a

[Report by Jose Luis Mor R.]

[Text] On 18 September, at the conclusion of the third meeting of the Consultative Group for Costa Rica held in Paris, the financial institutions and donor nations promised to help the country. However, they linked cooperation to speedier reforms in the public sector.

Speaking on the telephone from Paris, Planning Minister Carlos Vargas Pagan said that the donor nations believe that Costa Rica can only "move ahead if the state is substantially reformed."

Despite the above, the minister termed the results of the meeting as "very successful," because of the support that the Consultative Group gave to the policies implemented by the government. The minister stressed the many promises of aid in the fields of state reform, the open market economy, and environmental protection. He said that in each sector there are countries interested in supporting specific projects, the costs and details of which will be discussed bilaterally.

Before the official delegation traveled to the meeting, Presidency Minister Rodolfo Mendez said that the goal was to obtain a $250 million credit.

The Consultative Group, led by the World Bank, met on 17, 18, and 19 September with approximatley 18 nations and international financial organizations.

The Costa Rican delegation was comprised of the following ministers: Presidency Minister Rodolfo Mendez, Treasury Minister Thelmo Vargas, National Resources Minister Hernan Bravo, Foreign Trade Minister Roberto Rojas, and Planning Minister Carlos Vargas. Humberto Trejos, the National Emergency Commission chairman, also attended the meeting.

A World Bank communique, which was made public in Costa Rica by the information minister, states that the participants "had stressed their respect and support for the Costa Rican people's development, although they admitted that Costa Rica faces serious structural adjustments, particularly with respect to the size of its public sector. The size of the public sector can complicate the stabilization efforts to achieve sustained economic and social development."

Vargas Pagan reiterated that aid from the donor nations will become effective at subsequent meetings. It will consist of donations, technical aid, and other forms of assistance.

El Salvador

Government, FMLN Continue Peace Talks at UN

Cristiani Addresses Assembly

PA2409174791 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1450 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Speech by President Alfredo Cristiani before the UN General Assembly in New York—live]

[Text] Greetings Mr. President, delegates. We are very pleased, Mr. President, and we wish to express our sincere approval of your appointment to guide and outline the tasks of the 46th General Assembly. Your enormous ability, noteworthy experience, and competent leadership are excellent indicators of the achievement of this deliberative and decisionmaking conference at its highest level. Our satisfaction with your election goes hand in hand with our acknowledgement of the outstanding work of your distinguished predecessor, Mr. Guido de Marco. I take this opportunity to emphasize that the combination of such merit and accomplishment represents the continuation of a significant and fruitful mission, true to this forum where the international community meets to deal with the most important contemporary issues.

Likewise, we would also like to extend our appreciation to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for his positive determination as head of the organization. During this past year, his work has been even more illustrious, as international politics have now opened opportunities for the fundamental tasks of the United

Nations. Confidence in pluralism has been significantly increased, thereby strengthening this world organization's credibility and the scope of its action, and has encouraged its increased involvement in assisting to resolve specific problems.

With respect to El Salvador, the organization, through the secretary general, has had constructive long-range involvement established in the UN mission of verifying the ongoing negotiating process, involvement that has never before been so ample and responsible. This is only a small example of the fast pace of change that is taking place around the world.

This assembly has undertaken such tasks amid a period of transition for mankind during which we can see and feel, with unprecedented proximity, the movement of the mechanisms of history. These are not abstract expressions of the times, but a fascinating vision of history itself. The banishment of all totalitarian dogmas, that until yesterday appeared so strong, now forces us to consider the old issue of the power of liberty, more in terms of reality than theory. It is useless to dwell on the differences in the development and material wealth of the various regions and states. However, it is worthwhile to point out that the mechanisms of world intimidation and power that have appeared throughout most of this century seem to have replaced man's ability to play his role in history as a free man. What we are now seeing is the revival of spiritual and moral energy over and above the most sophisticated destructive apparatus. The fact that power once again is based on the liberty of mankind is in itself the beginning of the world's restructuring and the unavoidable rapprochement of people and nations. The basic problems of liberty are the same in a powerful nation as in a small nation of the so-called Third World, a label that is now no longer valid following events that have rendered Cold War terminology obsolete.

We Salvadorans, Mr. President, have been the victims of the abusive and irrational world polarization that divided the world based on sinister ideological fanaticism. The Salvadoran war was not invented by anyone, it emerged as a manifestation of serious failures and problems within our society. However, once the war was unleashed it took on the colors of the world conflict and thus found the supplies to fuel it, until now. For us, the end of the Cold War is not just good news, it has very special meaning, since it has a bearing on our own internal reality and on the possibility of true and positive pacification. This is why we are here participating in this, the first General Assembly to be held within the framework of an international panorama in which the bitter East-West conflict is almost nonexistent. The recent events in the USSR are the expression of the democratic movement's universal vitality. Therefore, we must quickly turn toward a new era of realistic cooperation and reasonable understanding among nations, based on pragmatism, not the false justifications of exclusive ideologies.

I must underscore, Mr. President, that experience has taught us that only tolerant and open pragmatism is effective in resolving problems and confronting realities. This is what I am promoting in my country, which is gradually overcoming the war's destructive upheaval and on the way to a postwar period, which, however difficult, must bear the mark of national reconstruction.

On an economic level, pragmatism demonstrates the need for a program of adjustments and amendments that will prepare us to produce and compete. In the search for peace, pragmatism indicates that we must cast out military solutions and continue to seek political solutions, as we have in the past and will in the future. On an international level, pragmatism has taught us that integration and cooperation are the only means of gaining access to the great trend toward development.

The pragmatism that I advocate does not mean, of course, that we must forget or shun our principles, quite the contrary. In accordance with our convictions, the highest form of pragmatism is called democracy, and we are unwavering and fervent supporters of democracy as a way of government and as a way of life.

This is the third time that I have stood at this distinguished platform since taking office in El Salvador on 1 June 1989. On each of those three occasions I have spoken of peace, reunion, and reconciliation among Salvadorans, following more than a decade of fratricidal war.

Since my government's beginnings, some people have doubted my intentions. I chose not to respond to those doubts, allowing the passage of time to speak for us instead. Two years later, the pacification and democratization process in El Salvador has persevered and made significant progress and I have presented the outcome, not as a personal achievement, but as the result of an effort by the Salvadoran people, who are profoundly tired of the war and would like to find a definitive path to peace. I would like to pay tribute to and acknowledge before this forum of nations the millions of Salvadorans who have stoically taught us in times of adversity that it is possible to hope for a better future.

The people of El Salvador are not alone in their hopes and aspirations. Fortunately, our struggle for freedom and the reconstruction of our democracy coincide with a broad and vigorous Central American, Latin American, and worldwide movement in the same direction.

In Central America, which has been joined in full right and brotherhood by the neighboring Republic of Panama, the effort to achieve economic, social, and political integration is progressing with encouraging strength. We are greatly aware of unity in our region, a fact that was acknowledged by the Central American presidents at their recent 10th summit in San Salvador, where they acknowledged that the worldwide changes and transformations of the past few years have placed Central America in a historic phase that requires renewed vision of its own integration process and insertion into the world order, marked by interdependence,

the emergence of new forms of integration and cooperation, and the effective application of international law.

As for Latin America, the Guadalajara Summit, which included all of Spanish-speaking America, was another unprecedented event with a view to the future. Mexico's call, which showed the extent of that neighboring country's extraordinary leadership, was unanimously welcomed. The meeting culminated with a declaration, the scope of which can be felt only by recalling the first paragraph.

We were especially pleased to gather for the first time in history to jointly examine the great challenges that our countries must face in a changing world. We thus intend to unite the political resolve of our governments to promote the solutions that those challenges demand and to turn the historical and cultural affinities that unite us into an instrument of unity and development based on dialogue, cooperation, and solidarity.

I must underline those three words—dialogue, cooperation, and solidarity—the keys to a new era that is being permeated by internal coexistence within states, as well as the dynamics of international relations. The era of dictatorship and abuse has been left behind, amid mountains of bodies and unequalled trauma. Intolerance and fear have attempted to control humanity's spirit during this century, which has been a century of invincible technological marvels. The time has come for the sciences and the mechanisms of human coexistence to make a leap into the future, recovering freedom to create and believe in a world worthy of human beings, a great freedom-seeking adventure on earth.

Politically, we see that walls are crumbling, myths are being undermined, and freedom is advancing with extraordinary vitality. However, the challenge does not stop there. Social development is still too far behind to allow us to sleep in peace. I believe that for democracy to be solid and lasting, it must include the political, social, economic, and social aspects. We must not forget—perhaps because a devastating war experience makes one very realistic—that the core of every process is specifically the human being, with his needs, rights, and hopes. It is this human being who in many places is still suffering the scourge of extreme poverty, social rejection, discrimination, insecurity, and illiteracy, among other ills.

This represents a challenge to the world and that is why we advocate calling a world summit on social development, to raise the discussion of this problem at the world level.

Mr. President, a new international order has emerged and the prospects are extremely important for our organization. The UN now has many opportunities to act in a world that increasingly demands multilateral communication. The universal principles of efficiency must become stronger as the need arises for increasingly broad and complex work within the organization. We are pleased to welcome the admission of seven new members into the UN family. In some cases—for example, Estonia, Luthuania, and Latvia—their admission has been an exciting and auspicious drama. We extend to the representatives of each of the organization's seven new members our warmest welcome and we are sure that their contribution to the work of the United Nations will be characterized by excellence and strength.

Mr. President, our presence at the organization's headquarters is particularly significant on this occasion. Prior to arriving for the UN General Assembly, we were working hard with the UN Secretary General for an entire week, seeking ways to hasten resolution of the Salvadoran conflict. We are fully convinced that the time has come for the war in El Salvador to end. Both the Salvadoran people and the international community are rightfully impatient for peace to allow constructive action in our homeland.

We have been working steadfastly and without respite to achieve this goal, which is now at hand. During our endeavors with the UN Secretary General, we have made extremely important progress to guarantee that 1991 will be the year of peace. The main obstacles have been overcome and we must now resolve the final details. This is highly encouraging news for the Salvadoran people and we want to share it with the nations of the world—many of whom have closely followed the process in which the Salvadoran people have strived so hard.

El Salvador caught the world's attention due to the war, but we now deserve, and demand, the world's attention due to the peace we are about to democratically achieve. We request the international community's necessary support for Salvadoran democracy so that our country can continue amid liberty and justice until it achieves stability and progress. Given the level and importance of the results achieved in New York between the government and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], with the direct assistance of the UN Secretary General, we believe that the overall agreement to end the conflict may become a reality in the near future.

We wish to quickly bring the armed conflict to an end and to abolish all forms of violence that afflict the civilian population, and we will immediately dedicate special attention to these points. We want the Salvadoran people to enjoy the tranquillity and security that they deserve, and we will analyze and propose the ways to achieve this seriously, authentically, and as quickly as possible. We request, as usual, the international community's trust and support for our efforts. We pray to God, so that He may enlighten all those of us who believe in peace and work humbly and tirelessly to achieve it. Thank you.

Rebel Radio Updates Talks

PA2409154391 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Report by Justo Sierra]

[Text] Thank you very much, companeros in network. We have an updated report on the negotiations currently taking place in New York. For the sixth consecutive day high-level delegations of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] and the government met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. New proposals were presented by Perez de Cuellar to both parties in view of a possible stalemate that arose 22 September. The meeting, which continues 23 September, apparently confirms that the delegations have touched on ways to resolve the principal problem, which is the Armed Forces, and on a short and intense agenda to be agreed on by the two delegations and carried out in the coming weeks.

Along with this, the discussions are focused on the FMLN's participation in the new Armed Forces and in the new National Civilian Police. The latter was agreed on in the negotiations held last April in Mexico City. Everything seems to indicate that some agreements will emerge at the meeting which, in addition to the short agenda and a timeframe for the implementation of agreements, will include the formation of two commissions. One will be a UN organization and the other will initially be called the National Peace Commission in which the FMLN, the government, political parties, and social forces will participate to direct and verify all agreements stemming from the negotiations. Another agreement to be reached will be on how to establish the guarantees and mechanisms to control the Armed Forces with the participation of pluralist political forces.

The group of countries friendly to the secretary general, Spain, Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico, will play an important role in facilitating the negotiations and in verifying the agreements.

Despite the slow progress of the negotiations in New York, General Ponce reiterated here his demand that the FMLN surender and demobilize, and rejected FMLN participation in the future Armed Forces. This particular position bogged down the negotiations during the entire preceding phase. Ponce said the current negotiations are causing a dramatic situation in the Armed Forces. He expressed his uncertainty that the government's position will be truly supported by the international community.

This has been our latest report, companeros and friends of Farabundo Marti. We will await new reports from New York.

Signing Postponed

PA2509014791 Paris AFP in Spanish 0052 GMT 25 Sep 91

[Text] New York (United Nations), 24 Sep (AFP)—After diplomatic sources had announced an imminent agreement, the Salvadoran Government and rebels decided to continue their negotiations at the United Nations on 25 September. Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, who had announced his return to El Salvador on 24 September, postponed his departure to remain in New York.

According to the sources, despite last-minute difficulties, the government representatives and the rebel leaders are very close to reaching a basic agreement that includes the guarantees demanded by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) for its integration into Salvadoran civilian life.

That partial agreement will be a very important step forward and will allow the negotiations to begin again in mid-October, still under the mediation of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Those negotiations will seek to attain a cease-fire to a civil war that has caused over 75,000 deaths in 11 years.

Agreement Reached on Guerrillas

PA2409204491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1950 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] United Nations, 24 Sep (EFE)—The Salvadoran Government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) reached an agreement on 24 September on guarantees for guerrillas to rejoin civilian life.

The agreement was announced by Salvadoran Permanent UN Representative Ricardo Castaneda-Cornejo, who said that the parties were about to sign the respective document.

Castaneda-Cornejo said that the peace negotiations will continue in mid-October in New York, with the mediation of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

According to sources close to the negotiations, the agreement closed the subject of the Salvadoran guerrillas' integration into the National Police as a guarantee for their reincorporation into society.

However, still open are such aspects as the reorganization and purging of the Salvadoran Army, which constitutes one of the most sensitive points in the peace talks, as well as economic and social reforms.

The Salvadoran Government and guerrillas began negotiations on 16 September under the mediation of the UN secretary general and with the presence of Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani.

Perez de Cuellar has been conducting separate talks with the two delegations and has been adjusting, in writing, the demands from each sides. With the assistance of "friendly" nations (Spain, Venezuela, Colombia, and Mexico) he has contributed toward reconciling the parties' positions.

There have also been direct negotiations between the Salvadoran Government's negotiating commission and the FMLN General Command, in which President Cristiani has not participated, according to the sources.

Efforts To Silence Radio Venceremos Denounced

PA2509000191 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 22 Sep 91

["News bulletin" issued by the National Army for Democracy, END, 3d Military Area in El Salvador on 21 September]

[Text] 1. On 16 September Arce Battalion began advancing from Cacaopera with the mission to destroy the installations of Radio Venceremos. On 17 September the search began.

2. The failed attempt to silence Radio Venceremos was planned at the 3d Infantry Brigade by Colonels Ciro Lopez Roque and Oscar Alberto Leon Linares to create a political event, which they hoped would halt the progress made in the New York negotiations. These advances are in the areas that deal with the purge and reduction of the Armed Forces. The failure of the negotiations, according to La Tandona [reference to the 1966 graduating class of the Captain General Gerardo Barrios Military Academy] members would allow them to continue the war—a war that they have turned into a shield to delay the purge that will expel them from the Armed Forces (?due to their involvement) in cases such as the Jesuits' murder.

3. We call on END forces in this eastern area, especially to land defense units, to strike with daring against those who have invaded these territories. We also call on all the area residents to defend the land and the democratic conquests, which have been won over this past year.

4. This new attempt against Radio Venceremos is an aggression and a conspiracy against the ideas that are feared so much. This is a signal that the Armed Forces are unwilling to tolerate the freedom of speech and ideas, which is precisely one of the FMLN's [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] demands at the negotiating table.

5. We call on the U.S. Embassy to suspend the technical support by U.S. advisers, who supply sophisticated direction finding equipment to the Armed Forces to locate Radio Venceremos. To end this practice would be a decision consistent with the statements by the U.S. State Department in support of the negotiating efforts in New York.

6. We reiterate our decision to defend the social and political conquests we have attained with dignity and bravery in our territories. We remind the high command that a similar operation against Radio Venceremos during the Torola 4 Operations, in October 1984, ended in a military disaster and in the death of their best commanders.

Long live free journalism in El Salvador! Everyone should fight for true freedom of expression!

[Signed] END 3d Military Area, El Salvador, 21 September 1991.

Guatemala

Statement on Territorial Claims Against Belize

PA2409200691 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 22 Sep 91 p 7

[Statement issued by the Public Relations Secretariat of the Office of the President of Guatemala—date and place not given]

[Text] In 1763 the Spanish Crown authorized British settlers to come to Belize to fell trees. With them, these settlers brought their language and their habits. They also established commercial relations and gave shape to a community that developed its own identity. As a result of this, a nationality distinct from ours evolved. Despite efforts by Spain, initially, and by Guatemala, following its independence, this situation has never been remedied.

In 1981 Belize became independent and received full international recognition. Thus, the nationality that had been forged was acknowledged within the framework of the principle of the people's right to self-determination.

The government of President Jorge Serrano Elias firmly maintains its territorial claims [over Belize]. It has never renounced those claims. To the contrary, it has always safeguarded those historic claims. The government believes, however, that it must find a civilized solution to the situation to be able to avoid problems and obstacles from the Third World and to secure new markets for our products.

This is why, in September 1991, after Belize had been an independent state for 10 years, the Guatemalan Government recognized that state, to be able to negotiate a solution to the territorial dispute, either directly or by submitting the case to the International Court of Justice. The government will comply with the constitutional mandate of presenting any definite agreement on the issue to Congress so that Congress can hold a plebiscite and the Guatemalan people can have the final say on this issue. Thus far, however, the Guatemalan Government has not initiated negotiations with Belize.

Despite the fact that Guatemala maintains its territorial claims, the government of President Serrano wants to have good relations with Belize because it believes that the two nations must live in peace, since this would facilitate and make viable whatever agreements are reached in the future, agreements on which the Guatemalan people will have their say.

The final decision will be theirs.

Public Relations Secretariat of the Office of the President of Guatemala.

President Praises Minister's Decision To Resign

PA2409163591 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 23 Sep 91 p 3

[Text] On 22 September President Jorge Serrano described Foreign Minister Alvaro Arzu's decision to resign from office as "brave and patriotic." Serrano said he accepted the resignation with "regret."

The president said: "I cannot help but express my sincere recognition for a decision that represents courage and patriotism. Decisions such as this one show the quality that should be characteristic in all who seek to lead the political future of our country."

Serrano praised Arzu's work and added that: "The foreign minister performed his duties with dedication, responsibility, and efficiency and his performance proved that I was not mistaken when I chose him to become a member of the cabinet."

The president added that: "I wish the people who created this situation were as honest as Arzu has been and put the country's interests ahead of party interests." The president concluded by stating that he hopes to continue counting on the help of the former foreign minister.

Government, URNG Talks Extended One More Day

PA2409215291 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0125 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno reported on 22 September that the Guatemalan Government and the guerrillas have agreed to extend their fourth round of negotiations for one more day.

During a news conference in a Mexico City hotel, the mediator of the Guatemalan peace dialogue said that the parties had requested the Mexican Government's permission to continue the talks on the respect of human rights in that Central American nation.

Quezada Toruno noted that the three-day meeting scheduled to end on 22 September was extended because the government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) delegations are studying, in a small commission, a guerrilla proposal to give true respect to human rights.

Quezada Toruno, National Reconciliation Commission (CNR) chairman, explained that the URNG's proposal contains 11 points and added, without further explanation, that "not even half of them have been analyzed."

The chairman said that the government is represented on the commission by Presidency Secretary General Manuel Conde, Government Minister Fernando Hurtado, Armed Forces Chief of Intelligence Marco Antonio Gonzalez Taracena, and adviser Ernesto Viteri.

On the part of the URNG, the commission is comprised of the members of the General Command, Gaspar Ilom, Rolando Moral, and Carlos Gonzalez; and on the part of the CRN, Mario Permout and Quezada Toruno, as well as UN observer Francesco Vendrell.

Quezada Toruno acknowledged that this way of working "has made the task easier but progress slower," stressing that the goal is to find specific mechanisms to guarantee respect for human rights.

Quezada Toruno said that the efforts are aimed at strengthening the current official institutions "that watch over the respect of the fundamental liberties contained in the Guatemalan Constitution," although he did not rule out the possibility of international verification "if the parties agreed to this."

He added that he hoped that on the evening of 23 September an agreement could be announced "or a communique or report (to the press) be issued stating that substantial progress has been made," although Quezada Toruno reiterated that "the fact that the issue has been thoroughly analyzed is already an achievement in itself."

Since April, the government and the URNG have been engaged in a negotiating process aimed at finding a true and lasting peace to put an end to a 30-year internal conflict that has claimed 175,000 lives.

URNG Announces Proposals

PA2509031691 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 24 Sep 91 p 58

[Text] The peace dialogue currently being held between the Guatemalan Government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] in Mexico is scheduled to end at 2000 today. Although there has not been any positive agreement reached, Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, the mediator, called the talks intense and productive and noted that they were held in a sincere climate.

According to an ENFOPRENSA dispatch, Quezada Toruno did not say if there would be agreements but stressed the importance of the talks and said they had been useful. He added that a plenary meeting will study the conclusions reached by the "small committee" of members of the two parties.

Manuel Conde Orellana, head of the government delegation, said the human rights topic was discussed at the meeting with positive results, although there is no magic answer to resolve the problem.

URNG Proposals

URNG has announced its specific proposals at the peace talks, which entered their fourth consecutive day. The proposals are:

1. To compensate the victims of human rights violations through scholarships, labor benefits, and economic support plans.

2. To incorporate into laws the crimes of forced or involuntary disappearances; tortures; cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment; and extrajudicial executions; declaring them all crimes against humanity.

3. To abolish the PAC [Civilian Self-Defense Patrols], the development areas, the model villages, the SIPROCI [Civil Protection System], and the military commissioners. If this proposal is approved, a UN General Secretariat representative will verify its fulfillment one month after the agreement is signed.

4. To eliminate the compulsory military conscription.

5. To dismantle the clandestine repressive mechanisms; to eliminate the plainclothes Armed Forces, weapons among civilians, and vehicles without license plates.

6. To repeal decree 8-86.

7. To have UN supervision of the entire process.

8. To take the cases of human rights violations before civilian courts, regardless of the status of the accused. In addition to the above points, the URNG document includes the creation of the Peace and Justice Commission and the following subcommissions:

—To investigate and clarify cases of forced disappearances.
—To investigate individual and collective extrajudicial executions.
—To investigate cases of violation of humanitarian international law, of the displaced persons and victims of repression.

Committee To Discuss Proposals

A small committee composed of 11 persons of the Guatemalan Government and guerrilla delegations, as well as conservative groups, will discuss the specific URNG proposals in the dialogue being held in Mexico.

The committee, whose composition was agreed upon at noon on 23 September and kept secret until the early hours of the evening, includes Manuel Conde, secretary general of the presidency; Ernesto Viteri, presidential adviser; Fernando Hurtado Prem, government minister; and Colonel Marco Antonio Gonzalez Taracena, all of them government delegates.

Also participating in the group are guerrilla commanders Rolando Moran, Gaspar Ilom, and Carlos Gonzalez; two UN observers, Franceso Vendrell and Diego Garcia; as well as Msgr. Rodolfo Quezada Toruno and Attorney Mario Permout, both members of the National Reconciliation Commission.

According to a dispatch by CERIGUA and by our special correspondents, the talks have been prolonged because the government is seeking to implicate the guerrillas in acts violating human rights, something that the rebels reject.

* Human Rights Violations for Mid-Year Reported

91CA0220A Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 12 Aug 91 p 5

[Text] Respect for human rights in our country has suffered an enormous decline. During the first half of the year, the Center for Human Rights Research, Studies, and Advancement (CIEPRODH) recorded 644 violations, including 233 murders, according to a report released by the Center this weekend.

This record reveals the resurgence of actions violating the most basic human rights, including life itself. It is documented by information in the possession of the Human Rights Prosecutor's Office, the Human Rights Office of the archbishopric, and reports from labor and people's organizations.

CIEPRODH indicates that during this period, "a total of 644 violations of the right to life occurred, the leading category being summary executions with no trial."

Based on information gathered, the report explains that "there were 303 killings, 34 of these beginning as kidnappings. Another 37 victims exhibited evidence of cruel torture."

It goes on to state that "the phenomenon of illegal and arbitrary arrests, carried out in the form of kidnappings, is another problem exacerbating the human rights situation in Guatemala. The victims of this procedure were not arrested as the result of any court order, but rather, were picked up on the streets as they were going to or coming from work or home, while they were at work or at home."

"The data show that during this period, 112 persons were kidnapped and 11 released (2 persons reported and demonstrated evidence of torture during their captivity). The bodies of 34 of these persons were found in different parts of the country and another 67 joined the long list of persons kidnapped and still missing."

According to the Center, those responsible for the violations were: security forces (42 cases), government officials (4), identified persons (13), unknown persons (573), and rebels (12).

Human Rights Violations by Type, January-June 1991

Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total	%
Murders	28	24	68	34	35	44	233	36.18
Wounded	7	15	19	7	17	16	81	12.58

Human Rights Violations by Type, January-June 1991 (Continued)

Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total	%
Kidnappings	4	14	14	3	17	15	67	10.40
Death threats	2	5	3	11	17	27	65	10.09
Attacks	14	5	6	7	9	8	49	7.61
Missing persons	-	10	10	2	12	8	42	6.52
Kidnap-Murders	3	6	10	5	6	4	34	5.28
Torture-Murders	11	1	5	-	6	4	27	4.19
Threats & intimidations	2	5	2	3	4	4	20	3.11
Kidnapped & released	-	3	1	1	2	2	9	1.40
Violent death	-	-	1	-	1	4	6	.93
Rapes of women	-	-	2	2	2	-	6	.93
Suspicious death	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	.47
Kidnapped-tortured-released	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	.31
Total	71	91	141	75	128	138	644	100

Source: CIEPRODH

Honduras

Nicaraguan President, Foreign Minister on Lawsuit

PA2109163991 Tegucigalpa Telesistema Hondureno Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Sep 91

["Exclusive" interview with Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro and Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus by reporters Edgardo Melgar and Carlos Riedel in Tegucigalpa—live]

[Excerpts] [Melgar] Good evening. Thank you for being with us on the Topics and News program [Temas y Noticias]. Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro, accompanied by top members of her cabinet, including Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus, arrived in our country earlier today, 18 September. They have already been received by Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas. Today we have Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro and Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus. Thank you for being with us. You are welcome, thank you for being in our country and on this program.

[Riedel] Thank you for being with us, President Chamorro, and thank you Foreign Minister Dreyfus. Listeners, how are you today? Thank you for tuning us in. We will be right back after a short pause.

[Riedel] What is the main reason for your visit to our country?

[Chamorro] The reason for the visit is to give a hug to the president and to all the Honduran people during this official visit. I am proud to visit Honduras and to be here in Tegucigalpa.

[Riedel] Nicaragua still has a lawsuit against Honduras with the International Court of Justice at The Hague. The Sandinist Government filed the lawsuit for allowing the contras to use Honduran territory. You have promised to withdraw the lawsuit.

[Chamorro] I have listened to many demands and much of the sadness of my people. I have already submitted the lawsuit to the National Assembly because, as you know, that is how things work. The National Assembly has it. If it were up to me, it would already be gone, but the National Assembly has the last word at this time.

[Melgar] Could your government not exert pressure on your parliament so that this can be resolved more quickly?

[Chamorro] There is nothing like democracy. In all parts of the world, legislative assemblies have their realm of responsibilities and one cannot be making demands.

[Melgar] Will this be accomplished within a reasonable period of time?

[Chamorro] I want to believe that they will do this as soon as possible because I do not want any problem of this kind with any sisterly nation.

[Melgar] How can we speak of Central American economic integration if one country has filed a suit against another?

[Chamorro] Everything is progressing well. With regard to the suit, all the Honduran people and the people from other countries know that this situation will be resolved because I do not want any entanglement with a suit that I did not file, that was filed in the past, and that I, as a democratic president, want to eliminate. It has already been removed from my heart.

[Riedel] Your government has already canceled the suit it had filed against the United States.

[Chamorro] All lawsuit cases have been presented to the Legislative Assembly. The Assembly discussed first the one filed against the United States. Yes, Enrique, do you want to say something?

[Melgar] BARRICADA, a Nicaraguan opposition newspaper, has criticized the Nicaraguan Government for withdrawing the suit filed against the U.S. Government.

[Dreyfus] Nicaragua's foreign policy, the foreign policy of the Nicaraguan people, functions within the framework of a spirit of reconciliation and therefore it promotes international reconciliation. It is in this context that Nicaragua has withdrawn the suit it had filed against the United States. The lawsuit against Honduras is going through procedures applied earlier to withdraw the suit filed against the United States.

[Melgar] BARRICADA has characterized that government decision as a source of national shame, Mrs. President.

[Chamorro] Where there is liberty and democracy, opposition newspapers have the right to criticize. What is important is to do what has to be done.

[Melgar] Is it true that your country and the United States today signed an agreement by which the United States will give Nicaragua much economic assistance?

[Dreyfus] No. Nothing like that has happened today. With regard to the suit, I must say that the people who are now criticizing our decision to withdraw the suit are the same people who withdrew a suit filed against Costa Rica. In the days of the Ortega Administration, there was a lawsuit that Nicaragua had filed against Costa Rica. At a given moment, President Ortega decided to withdraw the suit. In the case of the United States, that country has helped our government throughout the 17 months we have been in power with its contribution of $1.5 million per day.

[Melgar] How would you characterize it?

[Dreyfus] Very good. As among the best in the world. As good, if not better, than the aid given to Egypt and Israel, which as everyone knows receive much aid. On a per capita basis, the U.S. aid package for Nicaragua is one of the largest, if not the largest.

I believe that it is a matter of conscience for Nicaragua, for the government and people of Nicaragua, to have good relations with a country that has given us aid without exerting any pressure or interfering in Nicaragua's foreign policy. That is why the lawsuit was withdrawn. There is an agreement between the two countries that promises to place Nicaragua among the countries most benefited by U.S. aid.

[Melgar] Do you think that the withdrawal of Nicaragua's lawsuit against Honduras can be expedited?

[Dreyfus] Procedures must be followed. As you probably know, during the period from 26 February to 26 April, the Sandinists approved a number of laws intended to obstruct actions by the executive branch. Therefore, cases like this must be presented to the National Assembly as a bill, which the president did two months ago before the San Salvador summit. The president has presented to the Assembly a draft bill on withdrawing the law approved by the Sandinists so that the executive branch can act freely. That same procedure was used in the case of the United States.

[Riedel] Are there any reasons for rejecting the bill?

[Dreyfus] Absolutely not. It would not be correct or dignified, or the way to maintain good relations. We want to improve our relations.

[Chamorro] We do what our conscience dictates, without any conditions.

[Riedel] What is Nicaragua's position with regard to the Fonseca Gulf?

[Dreyfus] There is currently a case pending at the International Court of Justice [ICJ] between El Salvador and Honduras. Nicaragua's position is the same one that we expressed to the ICJ. Nicaragua has certain acquired rights, a fact that should be taken into account. One of these acquired rights is a delimitation that has existed between Honduras and Nicaragua for a long time, since early in the 20th century. This resulted from arbitration. There is a dispute and there must be a delimitation between El Salvador and Honduras, two countries that are our brothers. We do not want to take and will not take any stand in favor of one or the other.

[Melgar] (Words indistinct)

[Dreyfus] It would not be right or wise. It would be absurd. It does not make sense. Nicaragua, however, has taken a very clear stand. Nicaragua has told the ICJ: Gentlemen, this and this happened in the year such and such and Nicaragua has such and such rights over the Gulf of Fonseca. This is Nicaragua's stand.

[Melgar] Mr. President, Central American economic integration is being talked about. It was the main subject of discussion during the recent summit in Salvador. Between 1970 and 1980, Nicaragua and Honduras were the (?biggest) consumers of the region. What possibilities can you see for Honduras and, of course, your country,

Nicaragua when you speak of Central American economic integration? Nicaragua and Honduras are concerned because they rank last in development and production.

[Chamorro] I think your people are better off than we are. We desire integration with all Central Americans, particularly with Honduras, the closest to us. We have recently opened a provisional bridge in Guasaule for better communications. As I said, we are Central Americans and brothers. Since I started my presidential term and during the terms of the young presidents who have governed in Honduras, we all have worked together in friendship for closer commercial unity.

[Dreyfus] The new commercial integration outline will be very different from the previous one. The new one will include all products, except agricultural products. Measures were adopted at the Salvadoran presidential summit. After one year, all agricultural products, such as corn, basic grains, wheat, and sorghum, will be freely traded throughout Central America. Nicaragua and Honduras, basically agricultural countries, could not profit from this situation because the plan did not include these products. [passage omitted]

[Melgar] Mrs. Chamorro, you talked about U.S. economic aid and I want to ask: Do you think that the USSR helped the FSLN more than the United States helps you?

[Chamorro] I cannot tell you if it helped more or less. The USSR has now changed its ideology and policies.

[Riedel] International news agencies have published a report that caught everyone's attention. You vetoed a bill issued by the National Assembly of Nicaragua returning houses and land that were seized [words indistinct] previous government. Why did you adopt that decision?

[Chamorro] My dear friend, I adopted that decision because I believed it should be a partial veto. The country would be bankrupt if I left the bill just as the National Assembly wanted it. Many Nicaraguans and many foreigners fail to realize all the consequences that would follow if I did not veto it. I will give an example: Imagine that you had a house. The house was sold and other persons are now living in it. Now you want part of the money that was paid for the house—and you want your house back. The land and house ownership problem was carefully studied and this cannot be done. Imagine how many millions we would have to pay for this from the $360 million we have just received for the banks...

[Dreyfus, interrupts] It was something unacceptable.

[Chamorro] It could not be done. I have enormous faith and trust in God, and I pray that the National Assembly boys think carefully about what we want to do—and we must do this together for Nicaragua's peace and democracy.

[Melgar] The abolished law was called the giveaway. Right?

[Chamorro] Yes, the giveaway.

[Dreyfus] We want to clarify something, to complement what the president said. The problem we have pertains to the Constitution. One of the president's essential and primordial duties is to enforce the Constitution and the law. Therefore, it is understandable that members of the National Assembly would believe that a giveaway has taken place. The president does not endorse the giveaway.

[Chamorro] No, I do not.

[Dreyfus] She has publicly said this time and again.

[Chamorro] I fully disagree with the giveaway.

[Dreyfus] She fully disagrees with the giveaway, but she has an obligation.

[Chamorro] To enforce the law.

[Dreyfus] She must enforce the Constitution. The way in which the bill was prepared violated certain articles. What the president did was veto the articles of the bill that she considered... [pauses] that her advisers and government members considered unconstitutional.

[Chamorro] An explanation was sent, saying that the bill had been vetoed because of this and that and the other. I think they will understand.

[Melgar] Mrs. Chamorro, this means that what was said at a given point—that it was vetoed because you are afraid of the Sandinists' strong, iron-clad opposition if the law was abolished—is not true.

[Chamorro] No, sir, I have never been subject to pressure or been afraid of the Sandinists or anyone else. I am quite sure of what I am doing with my ministers and those with whom I am ruling the country for the welfare of the homeland. [passage omitted]

Cuban Ambassador To Lecture at Defense College

PA2409042591 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0026 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 23 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Cuban Ambassador to Nicaragua Fernando Ravelo arrived here today to give a lecture, official sources have confirmed to NOTIMEX.

This is the first time that a Cuban ambassador has visited Honduras, considering that this Central American country does not have diplomatic relations with the Havana government.

The Cuban diplomat will speak on the topic: "The Cuban Reality," at the Tegucigalpa Defense College, an institution under the Armed Forces.

It has been learned that Ravelo will return to Managua on 25 September.

Nicaragua

Withdrawn Lawsuit Leads To Cancellation of Debt

PA2409232691 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] It has been reported that the United States will cancel Nicaragua's debt. The ceremony, which will take place tomorrow, will be attended by Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro and U.S. Ambassador Harry Shlaudeman.

The amount of Nicaragua's debt to the United States was not disclosed. The cancellation will be in compensation for the Nicaraguan Government's decision to withdraw the lawsuit against the U.S. Government at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Court Convicts Recontra Commander of Murder

PA2409225591 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] The local judge of San Rafael del Norte has sentenced Jose Angel Moran, the recontra commander known as "El Indomable," to jail for killing an officer and his secretary.

The murder took place on 6 July on the road between San Rafael del Norte and Jinotega. Captain Jose Luis Mesa Moreno and Elizabeth Herrera Centeno, his secretary were killed in an ambush staged by a group of armed men headed by "El Indomable."

According to Sentence No. 124 decreed by the local court in San Rafael del Norte, the arrest of Stanislao Pineda Castro has also been ordered because he was an accomplice in the murder. Pineda Castro has already been detained, but "El Indomable" and another individual, found guilty of this murder, are still at large.

Mario Amador, the government delegate to Matagalpa and Jinotega, said that "El Indomable" has offered to surrender to the police because he considers himself innocent of the two murders. However, he will only turn himself in if he is promised a fair trial. Amador said the government will not initiate actions to capture "El Indomable" despite the fact that he is considered responsible for many attacks, burglaries, and lootings in peasant communities in northern Nicaragua.

Recontras Reportedly Clash With Recompas

PA2409202891 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Sep 91 p 16

[Special report by Abelardo Sanchez]

[Text] Ocotal—A clash between recontras and recompas [former Sandinist servicemen who have banded together to face the recontras] took place in the rural area of Susucayan, Nueva Segovia, at 0500 on 19 September.

First Lieutenant Gorky Galeano, deputy chief of police at Ocotal, has told LA PRENSA that no reports on casualties were yet available but that the situation is becoming tense. He said that the entire urban area of Quilali is being reinforced with policemen to prevent disturbances.

Scattered groups of armed men ready for action have been seen at various places in Nueva Segovia. Because of this, the authorities have encouraged the people to take security measures and avoid exposing themselves to danger.

The police have reported that the danger is greatest in Quisuli in the Mozonte area, 8 km east of Ocotal and in Achuapa, San Fernando, Santa Clara, Susucayan, El Jicaro, Murra, Las Vueltas, El Cortes, La Reforma, Los Jabalines, and everywhere in Quilali.

The recontras have organized themselves into groups of 50 men. Their total number has been estimated at 600. Their immediate leader is "La Culebra" and all of them are under the supreme command of Jose Angel Flores Moran, alias "El Indomable."

There are only three groups of recompas. Their total number and the name of their leader are unknown. It has been reported, however, that these groups have been reinforced with demobilized Sandinist People's Army members who arrived from Esteli and Somoto and that their objective is to annihilate the recontras.

I was told unofficially that the so-called recompas are equipped with large-caliber arms of the same type used during the war. The recontras, who are supported by certain organizations, have seized a large number of military arms and uniforms for their men, most of them peasants who back "El Indomable" and his already well-known demands.

The recompas intend to eliminate the recontras to stop assaults, robberies, and crimes, otherwise they believe no one will be safe in this country. Once this task has been accomplished, the recompas intend to hand over their arms and return to civilian life, according to a police source who referred to the 19 September clash in Susucayan.

Several Parties Form Christian Democrat Union

PA2409194891 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1815 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Erick Ramirez Benavente, leader of one of the factions of the Social Christian Party—which is now unified—has said: We are strengthening the unity of the Nicaraguan Social Christian family by forming a single party that, as of today, will be called the Christian Democrat Unity Party (Partido Unidad Democrata Cristiana), UDC, and now is the moment to establish our identity.

Ramirez Benavente also said that nine working commissions are being appointed to draft the rules of, disclose, and proliferate the Social Christian ideology.

[Begin Ramirez recording] The undersigned, representatives of the Social Christian and Christian Democrat political parties, whereas:

1. Nicaragua is currently experiencing a serious economic, social, and political crisis which needs to be confronted with more responsibility, patriotism, and goodwill to prevent more suffering, the danger of generalized civil war, and the loss of the precarious peace that we have had up to now.

2. This situation can only be successfully confronted with a spirit of unity and reconciliation and with a balanced and generous political leadership that can facilitate the collaboration and support of the state branches for the different sectors of society.

3. Social Christianity and Christian Democracy seek to organize a participative association based on shared democratic leadership that unites the different sectors of civilian society in the struggle for the national reconstruction and the integral development of the Nicaraguan people.

4. Since the demands of our own national reality, as well as the principles that inspire us, and because there are no differences between our parties' doctrines or ideology, we must proceed to unify the Nicaraguan Social Christian family.

5. Those who comprise the Christian Democratic Organization of America, ODCA; the Christian Democratic International, IDC; and the founders of the Nicaraguan Social Christianism are also interested in Social Christians uniting their parties.

We therefore agree:

First, to proceed on the unification of our parties into one single political party that will be called the Social Christian-Christian Democrat Union Party (Partido Union Democrata Cristiana Social Cristiana) and used the acronym UDC. [Applause] The parties that today sign this union will maintain their legal status until the new party obtains legal status.

Second, we agree to the following for the operation of this union:

A. A national executive commission will be formed with two representatives from each party that signed the union. This commission will be the highest executive authority in the UDC.

B. A national political commission will be formed by the founders of Social Christianity that are current members of the National Action Party, PAN, and the deputies of the parties that signed the union.

C. A political council will be formed out of the national executive commission and the political commission.

D. Nine national commissions will be formed with one member of each signatory party. The nine commissions will be responsible for organization, formation, international relations, press and propaganda, finances, youth, women, workers, and professionals.

E. A national directorate will be formed consisting of 60 members as follows:

1. Members of the national executive commission, the national political commission, and the national commissions. The rest of the members needed to reach the number of 60 will be filled by volunteers from the signatory parties.

2. The duties of the national executive commission will be: To follow the decisions made by the national directorate and ensure that they are followed; to dictate the necessary rules for the [words indistinct] of the decisions of the national directory; to propose the creation of the operational and peripheral branches and their regulations to the national directorate; to carry out the duties delegated by the national directorate; to summon the national directorate and the political commission to the congress after the approval of the national directorate; [words indistinct] by issuing the instructions it deems necessary for the benefit of the UDC; to guide the relationship between the UDC's official branches and appoint those who will be responsible for them; to create the technical commission it may consider necessary; and any other duties, rules, or statutes drafted and approved by the UDC's national directorate. [end recording]

Panama

Officials To Get Evidence on Accounts in U.S.

PA2309004291 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 22 Sep 91 p 1A

[Text] A mission from the Attorney General's Office will shortly travel to the United States to gather evidence that will permit authorities to keep frozen 40 accounts belonging to alleged drug traffickers, which are worth an estimated 38 million balboas.

The delegation is scheduled to meet with U.S. Justice Department officials involved in the covert operations "Polar Layer," [Capa Polar] and "Chase Caliber" [Calibre Chase], and officials handling the case against Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, slain member of the Medellin Cartel.

We are going to look for additional proof with regard to the origins of the aforementioned accounts, which were frozen in Panama last year, to continue the impoundment of the 38 million balboas, a spokesperson for the Attorney General's Office has stated.

Operation "Chase Caliber" was conducted by the U.S. Customs Service in October of 1989 in Tampa Florida and it led to the arrest of members of the Medellin Cartel and executives of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), including Amjad Awan, the personal banker of General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

"Polar Layer" was a covert operation initiated by under cover DEA agents and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), which led to the discovery of money laundering transactions of the Medellin Cartel in Colombia, Panama, Houston, Los Angeles, Atlanta, New York, and Miami.

The Attorney General's Office in Panama is trying to gather evidence on the dealings of late Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha with the now closed Banco Interoceanico.

Attorney General Rogelio Cruz this week managed to have the Legislative Assembly Budget Commission approve a special credit of 30,000 balboas to fund the aforementioned mission and take steps to freeze the accounts of alleged drug traffickers and former government officials.

Canal Commission's Disregard for Agreements Noted

PA2509014991 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Sep 91 p 2a

[Report by Jose Quintero De Leon]

[Text] Panama Maritime Judge Alvaro Cabal has voiced his concern over the attitude held by the Panama Canal Commission's [PCC] Marine Traffic Department officials. He cited three incidents where PCC officials have disregarded his jurisdiction and added that such contempt of court could have serious consequences.

Cabal, a young judge who believes in strengthening our sovereignty and in international respect for Panama's jurisdiction over its territorial sea, reported that the Panama Maritime Court [PMC] and the PCC implemented an agreement in 1982 on cases dealing with jurisdiction.

He has observed, however, that the PCC Marine Traffic Department has been making unilateral decisions, which do not follow the rulings of the cited PMC-PCC agreement.

Cabal has questioned the PCC's unilateral decision to condition the halting of a ship ordered by the PMC to whether the PCC has committed important technical resources to the ship's transit of the waterway.

This means, Judge Cabal stated, that a PMC order would be disregarded if a pilot boards the ship before the arrival of a judicial order to halt the ship, be it for a seizure or an embargo, because the pilot is more important to the PCC than Panama's legal sovereignty over its waterways.

The most recent incident of this type involved the Greek cargo ship Sea Tiger. The PMC ordered that it be halted on 6 September and the ship's captain, the PCC, and the corresponding maritime agency were duly notified of this legal action.

Going against the established rulings and in contempt of court, the ship was boarded by a PCC pilot at the Canal's Pacific entrance and taken to Gatun, where it was anchored.

On 29 May there was the case of the Panamanian ship Katya that the PMC had ordered to be stopped based on a request made by the Second Circuit Civil Court, where the ship had been presented as a guarantor of a transaction.

The PCC pilot, not heeding the court order, boarded the ship and took it to Gatun to do some work for the PCC. Later, it returned to the Pacific side and disappeared. This has caused serious losses to the plaintiff.

Another contempt of court incident took place with the ship Ostrander. On that occasion, the maritime judge agreed to meet with PCC Martime Traffic Department officials to coordinate actions regarding the transit of ships that are involved in legal disputes.

The Maritime Traffic Department has repeatedly disregarded orders to halt ships for seizure or embargo and it appears to believe that it does not have to heed Panamanian law.

Agreement With Credit Organizations Signed

PA2209044491 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Sep 91 p 1

[Report by Vilma Figueroa]

[Text] Guillermo Ford, second vice president and minister of planning and economic policy, stated on 20 September upon his return from Washington that Panama has signed a definite agreement with the international credit institutions and that now it is up to the legislative branch to support the economic plan in order to develop this country.

Minister Ford pointed out that "a definite agreement has been negotiated and signed. Now we must urgently carry out several objectives."

Ford and Finance and Treasury Minister Mario Galindo were in the United States negotiating the final agreements with the international financial institutions (IFIS). Ford stressed that Panama's agreement with the international credit institutions entails the Panamanian Government's compliance with the economic plan. In this respect, the Legislative Assembly must approve three fundamental bills: Reforms to the Social Security Law, Privatization Law, and Tax Reforms.

The vice president believes that if the economic plan is implemented by 31 October, the board of directors of the IFIS will meet during the first days of November. Afterwards, all transactions will be approved and we can

then proceed with payments that are pending. This will allow Panama to normalize its status and the right to receive approximately $700 million in loans and disbursements between 1992 and 1993.

Ford pointed out that there will no freezing of minimum wages. However, there will be an agreement whereby the government, respecting the Constitution and the laws stating that minimum wages must be reviewed every two years, will take the unemployment level and the country's macroeconomic program into consideration.

According to Mr. Ford, there will no dismissal of public workers because three mechanisms will be established including privatization, retirement, and a voluntary plan. In order to implement the voluntary plan, Minister Ford stated that a $30 million loan to finance the program had been obtained from the IFIS with the intention that those workers will not only receive payment, but also additional credits to start a new business outside the public sector.

Another issue that has remained unchanged is the one related to the Panama shopping center. Initially it had been proposed to increase it by 10 percent. It will now be increased from 2.5 percent to 5 percent by January 1992. It will not be modified any further during the term of President Guillermo Endara.

On the other hand, Minister Galindo stated that the IFIS had suggested the freezing of minimum wages during the years the IFIS's program would be in effect as an "essential" condition for normalizing relations with Panama. However, this suggestion was not accepted.

According to Galindo, "they also insisted on a 22,500 reduction in the government's payroll during the two years of the program, and an import tax on industrial input of 3 to no more than 5 percent during the first phase and later on to 7.5 percent. This was also rejected by the government and, fortunately, the IFIS cooperated."

Conditions for Release of BCCI Officials Noted

PA2509043391 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 24 Sep 91 pp 1, 26

[Article by Justino Gonzalez Jr.]

[Text] On 23 September the Panamanian Government announced that if any person associated with the Peruvian branch of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International [BCCI] banking scandal is arrested in Panamanian territory, they will be exchanged for former PDF [Panama Defense Forces] Majors Heraclides Sucre and Gonzalo Gonzalez. Several months ago both men were given political asylum in Peru.

Immigration Director Antonio Dominguez stated that the government will demand the surrender of these two military officers who have been charged with murder in Panama, as a condition for the release of any Peruvian BCCI official who may be arrested by the Technical Judicial Police.

The International Police (Interpol) sent a telex to its counterpart in Panama, where it requested an investigation into where they are hiding. [as published]

Dominguez did not rule out that these persons, who according to Peruvian authorities amount to 19, could have passed through Panama, or that they may be hiding somewhere.

According to the immigration department head, if these persons participated in illegal activities such as the BCCI scandal, it would not be surprising that they had forged documents to enter Panama.

Peruvian officials of the Central Bank of Peru and the BCCI are linked to the transfer of approximately $200 million from treasury funds to the BCCI branch in Panama.

A delegation of Peruvian senators recently visited Panama to obtain information related to this matter.

Probe of Comptroller General Recommended

PA2209160691 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 20 Sep 91 pp A1, A14

[Text] At 1000 on 19 September councilman Luis Eduardo Camacho and legislator Gabriel Arosemena appeared at the Attorney General's Office to learn the status of the investigations on the payments made in January 1990 totaling $68,645 to Panama City Mayor Omaira Correa.

Legislator Gabriel Arosemena presided over a special subcommission of the Legislative Assembly Budget Commission, which analyzed the aforementioned payments and reached the following conclusions:

1. The payments made by Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles to Omaira Correa flagrantly violated Article 74 of the Organic Law of the Comptroller General's Office.

2. This report recommends that the plenum of the Legislative Assembly Budget Commission demand the return of the payments made to Omaira Correa to the public treasury, in keeping with Article 49 of Organic Law 32 of the Comptroller General's Office.

Official Report

Regarding the payments made by the Comptroller General's Office to Omaira Correa for the period between 1 August 1988 and 31 August 1989, we report the following:

1. It has been confirmed that Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles, on his own initiative, paid Omaira Correa the sum of $68,645 on 10 January 1990.

2. There is no written notification of the Administrative Unit (Legislative Assembly), authorizing the Comptroller General's Office to unfreeze the withheld earnings.

3. The order to effect the payment was not issued by the Administrative Unit (Legislative Assembly), which represents an open violation of the existing legal dispositions.

4. The payment order was not duly assigned in the budget because there was no budget law in 1988 and 1989 and during 1990 the budget was approved after the checks had been delivered.

5. The payment order was issued to pay "services not rendered."

6. In sum, it must be categorically stated that the payments made by Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles to Omaira Correa flagrantly violate Article 74 of the Organic Law of the Attorney General's Office, which we subsequently quote:

"Article 74. Every payment order issued against the National Treasury or any other public treasury must be authenticated by the Comptroller General's Office. Without such a requirement, no disbursement can be made. In order to make a payment, the Comptroller General's Office will verify:

"A. That the payment has been issued in accordance with the existing legal dispositions on the matter;

"B. that the payment has been duly assigned in the budget;

"C. that the budget allotment has enough funds to cover the disbursement;

"CH. that the payment has been issued to pay for goods or services that have been rendered, excluding the exceptions stipulated by the law; and,

"D. that the recipient is indeed the person entitled to receive the credit."

7. We want to emphasize that on two occasions we unsuccessfully tried to perform an audit of the original documents, which are kept at the Comptroller General's Office, despite the fact that the attorney general had promised to allow us to perform such an audit.

8. Subsequently, we suggest that—in accordance with Article 49 of Organic Law 32 of the Comptroller General's Office—the plenum of the Legislative Assembly Budget Commission demand the return of the payments made to Omaira Correa for $68,645, without imposing any penal or disciplinary responsibility on the responsible official, namely Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles, for making irregular payments of salaries and earnings.

9. The comptroller general has violated Article 4 of Organic Law 32 of 1984 of the Comptroller General's Office, which states:

"Article 4. To perform the duties of comptroller general and deputy comptroller general, one must fulfill the requisites demanded by the Constitution. Such public servants, within the period of time for which they were appointed, will only be suspended or dismissed from their posts by the Supreme Court of Justice, provided that the following conditions exist:

"A. Having incurred crimes against the public administration and public property or patrimony, as well as general crimes which are punishable with prison.

"B. Having incurred abuse of authority or violated the responsibilities of public servants.

"C. Having incurred in clear ineptitude or negligence in exercising the duties of comptroller general."

Given the fact that this criminal conduct entails responsibilities to the comptroller general, including the suspension from his post while the corresponding trial is conducted by the Honorable Supreme Court of Justice, we call on the presidency of the Legislative Assembly Budget Commission to present the preliminary documentation of this investigation before the attorney general so that he can proceed, after the corresponding hearing, to submit this case to the Honorable Supreme Court of Justice.

Gonzalez, Sucre Avoid Peruvian Surveillance

PA2009235391 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 20 Sep 91 p 2-A

[Report by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] A government source has announced that former Majors Gonzalo Gonzalez and Heraclides Sucre slipped away from the Peruvian authorities one day after arriving in Peru, following the concession of safe conducts by the Panamanian Government.

According to the source, after leaving Panama on 10 May, the two former officers arrived in Peru, where they were taken to a hotel. When Peruvian immigration officials went to the hotel the following day, they found that both Gonzalez and Sucre were no longer there.

The source adds that this incident has been classified as a result of the irresponsibility of the Peruvian Government because extradition requests had been issued for the two former officers by the Panamanian state.

Meanwhile, the source maintains that the Panamanian Government should ask the OAS to pressure Peru to locate Sucre and Gonzalez because the OAS was among the international forums that put pressure on President Guillermo Endara's government to extend the safe conducts.

Attorney General on Location

PA2209165791 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 21 Sep 91 pp 1,3

[Report by Yali Enrique Pitti]

[Text] It is possible that Gonzalo "Chalo" Gonzalez and Heraclides Sucre, officers of the defunct Panama Defense Forces [FDP], might be in Colombia and may have joined the ranks of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] after leaving Peru, where they were in exile, Attorney General Rogelio Cruz has told EL SIGLO.

"In the realm of possibilities anything is possible," Cruz noted, adding that once Panama confirms that these men left Peru, it will request the aid of Interpol to find them, in or out of Peru.

The attorney general explained that the departure of Gonzalez and Sucre from Peru may be related to the recent death threat allegedly made by the 20 December Movement against President Guillermo Endara in messages written on several coffins.

When asked why the government is so concerned about possible guerrilla or paramilitary activites of the former mayor Gonzalez, Cruz indicated that he was one of the "Boston Braves" of the previous military regime of Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Relations between Panama and Peru are undergoing their most critical phase after it was learned that the Peruvian Government did not know the whereabouts of Gonzalez and Sucre, whose extradition was requested by the Panamanian Government on 20 May because the former officers are accused of several homocides in Panama.

In a letter sent to the Peruvian ambassador in Panama, Foreign Ministry authorities stated they were fully aware of the grave situation due to the confirmation of the disappearance of these men because that would constitute an "unbelievable and unexplainable" violation of the letter and spirit of the Convention on Diplomatic Asylum signed in Caracas in 1954 and of the Code of International Private Law signed in Havana in 1928.

In addition, the whereabouts of Gonzalez and Sucre are unknown. Their involvement with FARC, one of the oldest guerrilla groups in Latin America, is also unknown. They are allegedly training several former members of the FDP, a corps that was destroyed in the wake of the invasion of Panama by the U.S. Southern Command on 20 December 1989.

Police Disband Medellin Cartel Hired Assassins

PA2409232491 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 24 Sep 91 p 28

[Report by James Aparicio]

[Text] On 23 September National Police Director Gonzalo Menendez Franco reported that over the weekend the National Police disbanded a group of Colombian hired assassins belonging to the Medellin Cartel. The group was attempting to "settle accounts" with Panamanian Alfonso Diaz.

Menendez said that Colombians Jairo Alzate, Fabio Leon Suarez Ruiz, and Yovani Bolivar, who are presumed to be soldiers, attempted to kill Diaz, a well-known Panamanian "high priest" of Santeria [Afro-Caribbean cult].

During a news conference, the police chief presented documents, plane tickets, and ammunition seized from the Colombians and a foreigner, who are all still at large. Menendez said that the hired assassins entered Panama in August through Puerto Obaldia, at the Colombian border, a region described by the authorities as a "no man's land."

Diaz, who is also known as "Fochi el Santero," lives on 74th Street in the San Francisco area. He reportedly owes over $80,000 to the Medellin Cartel, Menendez said. The hired assassins had machine-gunned Diaz' residence, but he filed no report on the attack. This weekend he was the target of a bomb attack that only caused structural damage to his residence.

Argentina

Pressure To Leave Nonaligned Movement Denied

PY2409190891 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Argentine Ambassador to the United States Carlos Ortiz de Rosas categorically denied that Argentina withdrew from the Nonaligned Movement to please the Bush administration .

He pointed out that the United States did nothing to compel Argentina to make this decision.

Military Industries To Be Restructured

PY2109165891 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2305 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Sep (NA)—The Defense Ministry proposed a comprehensive plan for transforming the Directorate of Military Industries. The plan will streamline the directorate, privatize industries, and implement a management optimization program.

The plan was designed and released by the secretariat of production for defense, headed by Carlos Carballo.

The privatization mechanism provides for the immediate sale to the private sector of Zapla Blast Furnace, for which the appropriate law was previously approved. The corresponding documents with the requirements and conditions for the call for offers are awaiting approval.

The Berisso and Campana military factories will be privatized immediately after the approval of the corresponding law.

Some military factories—San Francisco, San Martin, Pilar, Azul, Matheu, ECA [expansion unknown], Jose de la Quintana, and the Mendoza Geological Mining Center—will be privatized after the introduction of the production rationalization changes.

The plan is based on the need "to establish the background for a new self-sufficient enterprise, in which production can be concentrated and through which costs and expenditures can be reduced."

With a smaller organization in charge of coordination and control, industrial production lines will be concentrated in the following military factories: General Savio, Rio Tercero, and Villa Maria.

The General Savio factory, currently known as the Fray Luis Beltran factory of light weapons and ammunition, will incorporate the weapon production line of the Domingo Matheu factory, the ammunition production line of the San Francisco factory, the production line of equipment for the line of fire of the Pilar factory, the production line of electronic and mechanical equipment of the San Martin factory, and the cup and aiming disk [copas y discos] production lines of ECA.

The Rio Tercero factory, which produces heavy material, weapons and ammunition, will incorporate the TNT production line of the Azul factory, the production line of gun carriages, cannons, and mortars of the San Francisco factory, and the armored vehicle production line of the San Martin factory.

The Villa Maria factory, which produces gunpowder and explosives, will incorporate the production line of the Azul factory, which produces the same products, and the production lines of the Pilar factory, which supplements the production of Azul.

The management optimization and improvement plan will be enforced once the industrial complex has been streamlined, and after privatization of all nonmilitary sectors. The plan will create a new legal structure that will permit the incorporation of new capital and technology for conquering new markets.

Transport Deregulation Law Sent to Congress

PY2009001091 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Sep 91 p 5

[Text] (DYN-NA)—A major law deregularizing land transport in Argentina was sent to Congress yesterday by Transports Secretary Edmundo Soria.

The law would free transport prices and opens up the sector to all individuals wishing to set up transport companies.

The bill seeks to deregularize and de-monopolize an area which is still under legislation first drawn up in 1937.

Some of 80 percent of the country's domestic transport is carried out by land.

Soria also announced that, as of October 1, land transport to Brazil will be deregularized within the framework of the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] negotiations.

This will abolish cargo reserves and allow any transporter to carry cargo to and from Brazil in an area previously dominated by only eight companies.

Soria made the announcements during a working lunch with journalists yesterday and said that provincial governments and municipalities have been asked to follow suit in deregularizing transport.

Layoffs Planned for Military Industry Employees

PY2409014491 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Sep 91 p 7

[Text] (NA-DYN)—In the framework of restructuration and privatization of companies currently under the aegis of the Defence Ministry, government spokesmen announced that some 7,000 employees working in factories of the Fabricaciones Militares military industrial complex will be laid off in the next few days.

The source commented that some 5,300 will be transferred to the public sector, while the remaining 1,700 will be dismissed.

The severance pay the government will have to hand in has been estimated at some 15 million dollars. It will probably be covered with part of the 238-million-dollar credit line the World Bank and the International Financial Corporation will provide for restructuration of the military-industrial area.

The project includes a broad geographic redistribution of military factories, with all their activities concentrated in three sites: General Savio, Rio Tercero and Villa Maria. All other buildings will be transferred to private companies.

The spokesman pointed out that the personnel to be laid off does not include the workers at any of the companies currently in the process of privatization, like AFNE [State Shipyard and Naval Factories], SOMISA [Argentine Iron and Steel Joint Association], Domecq Garcia ship builders and the Bahia Blanca and Rio Tercero petrochemical factories.

Government Approves Funds To Pay Back-Wages

PY2409235291 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 Sep 91 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The Economy Ministry yesterday approved a 1.8-million-dollar remittance to Hipasam iron mine to help the state-owned company pay wage arrears dating back to June while some 200 Hipasam workers camped in Plaza de Mayo to protest the prospective closure of the mine.

Labour Minister Rodolfo Diaz, currently in charge of the Economy Ministry due to Domingo Cavallo's absence, announced that the company, located in Sierra Grande, Rio Negro, would be able to pay the wages and start its rationalization plan prior to privatization.

Meanwhile, the protesters demanded that the re-opening of the mine (it was closed by the government in June for financial problems and the government promised it would resume work soon) and reminded President Carlos Menem of his campaign promises, when in March, 1989, he stated that "from the mines of Sierra Grande we will start the productive revolution in Patagonia."

But Menem said last night that Hipasam would be finally closed if it did not reduce its deficit.

As their husbands and sons started their demonstration in front of Government House, the "Mothers of Sierra Grande" cut national Route 3 to support their demand. Ten women started a hunger strike.

Earlier in the day the Labour Ministry had urged the Hipasam authorities to pay the wage arrears because of their "serious social consequences." The Sierra Grande City Hall has recently declared the community in a "social, economic and health emergency."

Sierra Grande Mayor Miguel Angel Palferro, who accompanied the workers in their demonstration, pointed out that "just paying the salaries does not solve this difficult situation because what we want is for the mine to be opened again. The life of our town depends on Hipasam and if it's not reopened, we will not be able to continue living there."

Palferro held a meeting with Interior Secretary Juan Mazzon at Government House. He said that the federal official "promised he would contact the Defence Ministry to seek a solution to the Hipasam problem and we made it clear to him that the only possible way out of this is for the mine to resume work."

In turn, Hugo Riesco, secretary-general of the Sierra Grande delegation of the Miners' Union (AOMA), accused the union's national leader Carlos Cabrera of "negotiating with the government behind the workers' backs."

Riesco said that Cabrera "is not supporting our struggle; they're giving away our source of employment and the jobs of 1,800 people, they're traitors and they think we'll be satisfied with the payment of owed wages."

For his part, Viedma Bishop Miguel Hesayne sent President Menem a letter calling the Hipasam closure "a national tragedy" and "demanding" a solution to the problem. Hesayne reminded Menem of a conversation they held in which the head of state promised not to close the mine. "Hunger and desperation do not wait and these men are waiting for an effective and immediate answer from the government," Hesayne's letter reads.

While the representatives of 13,000 families continue camping in Plaza de Mayo, a report issued by the Rio Negro provincial Health Council states that "there were usually some 200 families in Sierra Grande who could not meet their basic needs. Now that number has grown to 800."

Menem Supports Press Regulation

PY2409015891 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Sep 91 p 7

[All quotation marks as published]

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN)—President Carlos Menem considered yesterday [as published] that the press "should be regulated" in order to control "novices" who "don't understand the reality of the country," although he praised Argentine reporters in general and called most of them "exceptional."

During the television programme Cocinando con Roberto Galan [Cooking With Roberto Galan], broadcast Saturday [21 September] night on ATC [Argentina Televisora Color], the president was asked if there were "novices working in journalism who were disrespectful."

Menem said: "Of course there are, but this is not the fault of inexperienced reporters, but rather the organizations where they work.

"I believe that the journalism profession should be regulated to a certain degree," Menem stated. "You just cannot send a kid out on the street who is not well informed about current affairs and have him question a minister, a deputy or the president about things that have nothing to do with his profession."

The head of state downplayed criticisms made against him by the press considering that "it's a normal part of any politician's day."

According to the president, journalism "is not the fourth power, I think it is the first power, because it creates and forms public opinion.

"I cannot say I am content with everything the press publishes, that would be hypocritical. But for the most part news coverage is excellent because they are professionals of the art and science of information," said Menem.

While heaping praise on the majority of Argentine journalists, he lamented that "there are some who need some guidance and others who should choose another profession, but most are good."

In reference to his government's policy regarding the media, the president emphasized that "we condone absolute freedom of the press. When there are excessive verbal assaults on the president, I prefer to let them speak rather than silence anyone." [passage omitted]

Clarifies Remarks

PY2409233691 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 Sep 91 p 11

[Text] (DYN-NA)—President Carlos Menem yesterday asked the mass media to set up a mechanism for monitoring press standards and reminded journalists that many colleagues had died during the last military dictatorship.

"You can't have someone off the streets, who doesn't understand national problems, interview a minister, deputy, or the President about themes he doesn't yet understand," Menem said, adding that he did not mean to say on Saturday [21 September] that the government should regulate the press.

The President meant to say that the best journalists should occupy the most important jobs, Press Secretary Raul Burzaco said.

Menem, speaking in the Government House to mark the 30th anniversary of the creation of the presidential beat, said that his government is deeply committed to protecting the free press.

"I was also a victim of a tough period in Argentina, when many of your colleagues, your friends and your brothers died," Menem said.

This government considers freedom of the press a question of life or death, the President said.

Menem and Enrique Bugatti, the senior government house reporter, awarded commemorative medals to the founders of the presidential beat.

"Some news services have an editorial slant and many of you might be forced to abide by their policies," Menem said while calling for press regulations.

Bugatti said that the government should always respect the freedom of the press and told the mass media that it should send its best reporters to cover the presidency.

"The accredited reporter does not chase a story. He waits for it," Bugatti said.

Cuban Diplomat Calls For Firm Commercial Ties

PY2409213891 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1402 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Mar del Plata, 24 Sep (TELAM)—Victor Martinez Garcia, economic and commercial counselor at the Cuban Embassy in Argentina, stated: "Cuba is interested in establishing firm commercial ties with Argentina." Garcia is visiting Mar del Plata to promote the commercial fair in Havana. He added: "We are interested in agro-industrial products and technology exchange. There will be 32 Argentine exhibitors at the fair, double the number that participated in the first fair two years ago."

Garcia said: "Cuban-Argentine bilateral trade reflects the situation we are currently experiencing." He noted: "We import agro-industrial and industrial products from Argentina, but, in exchange, we export Cuban products that are greatly appreciated by the Argentine market."

He added: "We buy primarily petrochemical products from Argentina, particularly those for the plastic industry. We also import powdered milk." In turn, Cuba exports tobacco and promotes tourism. Every year Cuba welcomes 25,000 Argentines who spend $200 million per year.

Garcia said Argentina "is Cuba's eighth largest supplier. This means that Cuba and Argentina are trade partners."

Foreign Ministers To Discuss Falklands Fishing

PY2409134091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2057 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] New York, 22 Sep (TELAM)—Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella and his British counterpart Douglas Hurd will discuss future fishing prospects around the Malvinas Islands at a working meeting with an open agenda they will hold here on 26 September.

This report was released by the Argentine foreign minister at a meeting with Argentine reporters. He said the fishing issue "will be discussed within the concept of maintaining the Argentine claim for sovereignty over the islands by placing it under an umbrella."

He said that during his last meeting with Hurd some four months ago in London, "we said half seriously and half jokingly that we have normalized 97 percent of our relations and that we were working on the remaining three percent."

Included in the three percent is the "unfaltering Argentine demand for sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands," said Di Tella, adding that Argentina "will be in a better negotiating position when it increases its economic power."

"When Argentina is in a different position, a better economic position, it will be able to negotiate better. Today we can negotiate much better than we could two years ago because our level of credibility and economic order make our demands stronger," he said.

He added: "There are barriers that impede fishing prospects and conflicting zones that we can reduce. The conflict with Great Britain includes land and maritime territory."

"There is great interest in investing in the privatization projects that we wish to implement," he concluded.

Research Institute To Build Satellite With NASA

PY2209200691 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0016 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] San Carlos de Bariloche, 21 Sep (TELAM)—The Applied Research Institute (INVAP) in Rio Negro Province will participate in the construction of the satellite SAC-B [Satelite Argentino Cientifico], together with NASA in the United States, which will be orbited in 1994.

INVAP participation was made effective by a "letter of intent" signed today in Bariloche by Science and Technology Secretary Raul Matera and Jose Marticorena, chairman of the INVAP board of directors.

The ceremony also was attended by Jorge Saadz, president of the Argentine Commission of Space Activities; Juan Aellacha, policy and planning under secretary of the Science and Technology Secretariat; Mario Gullichy, chief of the SAC-B project; and other INVAP experts and scientists.

NASA approved INVAP participation in a large part of the project because it has the necessary technical capability, installations, and quality to do so.

The "letter of intent" states that aerospace development is a state-of-the-art activity that uses advanced technology. It also stresses the fact that it needs local support with experience in the management of technological projects in keeping with the complex aerospace initiatives at a national and international level.

INVAP's participation in this project is also a guarantee of quality, which it developed for nuclear activities. INVAP also participated in the preparation and presentation of the preliminary SAC-B analysis carried out in Washington in 1989.

The guidance package of the new project, including precision instruments, will be built in Argentina. The SAC-B will carry a spectrometer to study solar rays and measure gamma rays. The launching of the satellite is scheduled for 1994 in the United States from the space shuttle.

Armed Forces To Conduct Automated Exercise

PY2109020891 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2020 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Sep (NA)—The Armed Forces will conduct their first joint exercise to verify existing operational plans using an automated system. The operation will take place at Puerto Belgrano naval base 23-27 September.

Reportedly, the exercise was ordered by the Armed Forces joint staff to verify, at lower cost, the efficiency of existing joint programs.

Representatives of the three branches from various garrisons nationwide will participate in the exercise.

Exercise Begins

PY1909135491 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 18 Sep 91 p 13

[Excerpt] A nomenclature of minerals ('copper, silver') and vegetables ('tomato, onion') in the rugged Patagonia geography, north of the Santa Cruz River, sets the stage for fierce combat between an offensive force (red ones) and a defensive force (blue ones) that confront each other with armored units and mechanized infantry regiments with air support.

Nevertheless, this 'war' is waged without bloodshed and shrapnel around tables covered with maps at the War College, where 160 students from the War College, Venezuela, the United States, and the Americas School confront each other in Operation United Forces 91, which is carried out every year to enhance "joint actions at a low tactical level."

Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez; Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Martin Bonnet; Carlos Quevedo, the director of the Army Superior Education Institute; and General Richard Timmons, the chief of the U.S. Army Southern Command, toured the various stages and commands.

The goal of these exercises is to share techniques with U.S. personnel, 43 of whom are participating.[passage omitted]

Mondino To Head IAEA Board of Governors

PY2409235491 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 Sep 91 p 5

[From the "Business World" column]

[Text] Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) President Manuel Mondino was appointed head of the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Organization [Agency], it was officially announced yesterday. The board of governors jointly with the general conference are the governing bodies of the international entity, an autonomous organization that belongs to the United Nations. Mondino travelled to Vienna recently, headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Organization, to take over his new post until September 1992.

Bolivia

Oruro Police, Military To Patrol for Terrorists

PY2509022891 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Oruro Department Prefect Walter Soto Luna reported that police and military personnel will closely control the region in view of recent Tupac Katari Guerrilla Army terrorist activities. [recorded passage indistinct]

Luna added that losses from bomb attacks carried out over the last few days against Bolivian Government Oil Deposits pipelines and National Electricity Company pylons have yet to be evaluated. Personnel from these two companies will visit the sites of the attacks to appraise the losses.

Drug Traffickers Surrender Under Decree

PY2409032691 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Two more drug traffickers surrendered here in Santa Cruz yesterday because of the Repentance Decree. Jorge Flores Moises, alias El Capitan, and Alcides Guardia, alias El Mejicano, arrived at El Trompillo Airport within half an hour of each other. Flores Moises arrived at 1410 and Guardia at 1445.

Flores Moises reportedly came from the Santo Belen settlement on the Brazilian border. He was accompanied by his four children and the parish priest for Santo Belen. The agents who were waiting for him at El Trompillo Airport, led by Major Barriga, allowed Flores Moises to visit his mother before arresting him. Guardia came from San Matias, which is also on the Brazilian border.

Currently, the number of drug traffickers who surrendered to the government totals seven. The following drug traffickers are under arrest and are awaiting trial: Edwin Guzman, Winston Rodriguez, Antonio Nacif, Hugo Rivero Villavicencio, and Oscar Roca. Allegedly, three additional drug traffickers will surrender before the Repentance Decree expires.

We must remember that a few days after Edwin Guzman surrendered on 11 July, Flores Moises reported that he would surrender also. Edwin Guzman was the first drug trafficker to surrender.

Correction to YPFB Report on Income

PY2009180691

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "YPFB Reports $602.4 Million Profit in 1990," published in the 20 September Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 43

Column one, second item under Bolivia, make headline read: YPFB Reports $602.4 Million Income in 1990. (changing "profit" to "income").

Same column, same item, only graf, first sentence make read:...has reported an income of $602.4 million-...(changing "profit" to "income").

Brazil

* Use of Secret Funds for Nuclear Program Confirmed

91SM0502D Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 4 Sep 91 p 10

[Text] Secretary of Strategic Affairs [SAE] Pedro Paulo Leoni Ramos confirmed yesterday to the National Defense Committee that secret appropriations in the amount of 3.8 billion cruzeiros had been spent on nuclear energy, out of a total of 12.5 billion cruzeiros allocated to that field under the secretariat's budget. However, Leoni did not explain to the deputies where and how the money was used. Agencia Globo reported that he claimed he is forbidden to do so by the Constitution and a body of laws that, according to Leoni, are vital to national security.

"I can confirm the use of secret funds, but the legal precepts that currently govern this secretariat prevent me from going into detail," Leoni told Sao Paulo Deputy Jose Dirceu (PT) [Workers Party], who had formulated the request calling on Leoni to explain the secret use of budgeted funds.

The secretary backed the suggestion that the National Defense Committee begin to monitor the use of secret funding by the government, while maintaining confidentiality. According to Agencia Brasil, he stated that "It is public knowledge that the Secretariat of Strategic Affairs sincerely wants the national Congress to monitor SAE activities, objectively and systematically, especially those that represent intelligence work and the use of secret funds."

Leoni also said—according to Agencia Globo—that as of August of this year, 0.45 [as published] percent of the secretariat's budget had been spent on secret funding in the intelligence area.

During nearly two hours of testimony before the committee, Leoni stressed that the use of secret appropriations is perfectly legal. The meeting was 45 minutes late in starting, due to absence of a quorum.

Speaking to a plenary session of fewer than ten legislators, the secretary gave a formal report of the budget expenditures by the SAE without giving very many details, but took advantage of the opportunity to denounce, according to reporter Adriana Vasconcelos, "the scurrilous and ill-considered accusations, so sadly disseminated on this subject by those who stubbornly persist in maligning authority."

Pedro Paulo Leoni Ramos stated, according to Agencia Brasil, that during the period 14 March to 31 December 1990, "the review of accounts performed by the Secretariat for Internal Control of the Office of the President concluded that the outlays were in order. This led to their approval by the secretary of strategic affairs and the secretary of internal control, and subsequent forwarding to the federal Court of Auditors."

Collor Terms Bush's Support of GATT 'Positive'

PY2409231091 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] After the opening ceremony for the UN General Assembly, President Collor granted an interview to Brazilian journalists. He told them that negotiation of the Brazilian debt is difficult, and added that he hopes Brazil can reach a fair agreement on its debt.

[Begin Collor recording, in progress] ...the additional payment that the private creditor banks are requesting is far beyond our means to pay. We hope to reach a consensus and to find ways of advancing the negotiation and, thus, reach an agreement with the international private creditor banks. [end recording]

President Collor pointed out that his speech had points in common with President George Bush's speech, particularly with regard to foreign markets for developing countries' exports.

[Begin Collor recording] It is extremely positive (?to see) the U.S. President express—so emphatically—his hope that the GATT Uruguay Round will reach decisions that will allow us to sell our products on the international market. We agree on this point. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Grain Shortage Prompts Record Purchase Abroad

PY2409180891 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Sep 91 Section Three, p 1

[Report by Maristela Mafei]

[Text] By the end of 1991, Brazil will have imported the largest amount of grain in its history; 6.5 million tons of wheat, corn, rice, and soybean worth a total of $1.3 billion.

This record quantity makes Brazil the third largest buyer of agricultural products (behind the former USSR and Japan) in the world.

Brazilian exporters believe that Brazil is the second largest buyer if the wheat flour and soybean meal imported by Japan are not taken into account.

The performance of the agricultural sector made President Fernando Collor very angry during the cabinet meeting last Friday, 20. During his first two years in power, Brazil has changed from being the "world's granary" to becoming a large importer of agricultural products.

Purchases in the foreign market became necessary after the planted area was reduced by 15 million hectares. In 1987 almost 43 million hectares were planted. In 1990 the number of planted hectares shrank to 37 million.

During 1990 a part of the grain shortage was covered by the government's grains stock. In 1991 the government has practically no stocks left and this has forced the country to buy a large portion of its grain on the international market.

Economist Fernando Homem de Mello, from the FIPE [Economic Research Institute Foundation], is not worried about this grain purchase. He maintains: "The agricultural shock of the past two years has maintained prices and this will prompt the farmers to increase their planting for the 1991/92 harvest."

Homem de Mello believes that the weather is responsible for 70 percent of the 13 million tons of grains lost during the past two years. He believes that the government policy accounts for the remaining 30 percent. Economists also believe that the 1991/92 harvest might yield 64 million tons of grain.

Vladimir Brandalise, of the Etac Consultant Enterprise, however, is not as optimistic: "The cooperative enterprises are not granting financial aid to the farmers, interest rates on government credits are high, and rainfall is insufficient. The next harvest will not be much higher than the 57 million tons of the last harvest."

The country has also lost exports of agricultural goods at the wrong moment. In 1990 Brazilian farmers lost $1.5 billion by not participating in the futures market. Had they sold soybean on the futures market in 1989, they would have earned an additional $2.86 per bag according to research carried out by Etac.

Poll on Support for Parliamentarian System

PY2109172691 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Sep 91 p 1-6

[Text] Almost half of Brazil's population (46 percent) supports the government's parliamentarian system. The current presidential system obtained only 34 percent of the votes, and 18 percent were undecided. This is the main result of the survey conducted by DataFOLHA from 4 to 7 September with the participation of 7,018 voters from 156 municipalities.

The deterioration of the executive branch (the results of the survey published on 15 September reveals that 41 percent of the voters describes Collor's administration as poor or very bad) is one of the probable reasons for these results. Supporters of opposition parties PT [Workers Party] (65 percent); PSDB [Brazilian Social Democratic Party] (61 percent); PDT [Democratic Workers' Party] (55 percent), and PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] (51 percent) support the parliamentarian system.

Most of the supporters of the PRN [National Reconstruction Party] (58 percent)—the party of President Collor—of the PDS [Social Democratic Party] (37 percent), and of the PFL [Liberal Front Party] (36 Percent) advocate the presidential system.

Support for the parliamentary system of government is greater among those with higher educational levels (39 percent among those who have completed elementary and middle-school education and 59 percent among those who have a university education), and also among those who earn higher salaries (42 percent among those who earn up to five minimum salaries and 58 percent among those who earn more than 10 minimum salaries).

The support for a presidential system has not suffered a major change: Among those with higher education levels it amounts to 33 percent, 35 percent among those who have elementary and middle-school education, and 32 percent among those who have higher education. The same thing occurs among those who earn a salary: Among those who earn up to five minimum salaries it amounts to 34 percent, 36 percent among those who earn between five and 10 minimum salaries, and 34 percent among those who earn more than 10 minimum salaries.

A major difference among those who support a parliamentary system can be found in the southeast (52 to 32 percent), followed by the south (48 to 34 percent), and the northeast (39 to 34 percent). There is a draw in the north/center-west: 37 percent.

Support for a parliamentary system increases when municipalities are included: In the smaller ones it amounts to 40 percent, with 48 percent in the medium sized ones, and 51 percent in the large municipalities.

The results of the poll in the main capital cities indicate that there has been a decline this year in the preference for a presidential system. The April DataFOLHA poll reveals that 35 percent of those polled in the capitals preferred a presidential system. This support has now fallen to 32 percent.

Chile

Silva States Chile Will Remain NAM Member

PY2409180091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0122 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Santiago, 22 Sep (EFE)—Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma said 22 September that Chile will not leave the Nonaligned Movement because there are reasons for staying in the organization.

Silva made this remark shortly before departing for New York to participate in the UN General Assembly.

The minister dismissed criticism from some Chilean right-wing political circles over the government's insistence on remaining in a group from which Argentina has just withdrawn.

Silva said that all opinions are carefully weighed but decisions are made by the government. Chilean President Patricio Aylwin's precise instructions are "to remain in the Nonaligned Movement."

"Many reasons justify this decision, we especially want to fight against underdevelopment in the Third World," the foreign minister said.

Silva Cimma said that many problems—like respect for human rights and environmental protection—still exist in developing countries. [passage omitted]

Ministers Comment on Free Trade Agreement

PY2409124091 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma said that the Free Trade Agreement signed with Mexico is of great economic and political importance. The minister made this statement to the media after Presidents Aylwin and Salinas de Gortari [of Chile and Mexico, respectively] signed the treaty.

[Begin Silva recording] It means that from the political point of view, relations with Mexico are improving and becoming more prosperous every day. From the economic point of view it has an enormous potential because we are leaving rhetoric and definitively progressing with concrete and clear steps toward a free trade agreement with Mexico which will yield prosperous results for the two countries. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley, who also attended the ceremony at La Moneda Palace, said that this agreement places Chile and Mexico within the world of international economy. He also spoke of the conditions through which the agreement was reached.

[Begin Foxley recording] First, I think it was the political will of the two presidents. President Salinas and President Aylwin share a same vision of the future of the region and of their respective countries. They have a modern vision and they want to project their countries, together and internationally, in several fields. Thus, they have taken the necessary initiatives.

The other point is that my friend Jaime [Mexican Secretary for Commerce and Industry Jaime Serra] and I have maintained excellent personal relations, our technical teams understand each other very well and they have completed a very serious and intense professional task. I was recalling that I met with Jaime for the first time early in October 1990 to discuss this possibility and in less than a year we made it a reality. I think this shows that Latin America is at last forcefully, vigorously, expeditiously, and efficiently getting things done. [end recording]

Mexican Commerce Secretary Serra stressed that this treaty has no direct relation with the similar agreements the two countries are independently negotiating with the United States, although they share the same economic concept.

[Begin Serra recording] As Minister Foxley was saying, it is independent of this negotiation. However, both negotiations affect Mexican trade and the consultations and conciliation of interests that were carried out in Mexico will ensure that the results will benefit our country. Although the treaty we signed with Chile and the one we are negotiating with the United States and Canada have points in common in their origin, they are two independent issues. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Salinas Discusses Latin American Affairs

PY2409150091 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Exclusive interview with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari by journalist Bernardo de la Maza. Place and time not given—live or recorded]

[De la Maza] Mr. President, we have witnessed several attempts at Latin American trade integration. Most, if not all of them, have failed. Among the failures was, of course, the ALALC [Latin American Free Trade Association]. It is said that the system now being implemented between Chile and Mexico will be the definite formula for Latin America. Do you think so, and why?

[Salinas] I am sure it is the appropriate formula for Mexico and Chile because it foresees concrete actions. It is not just rhetoric and speeches but it is going to implement concrete actions. It means that Mexico and Chile are reducing their trade barriers, allowing greater trade flow and greater exchanges. For the Mexican and Chilean people this will mean greater job opportunities, better pay, and more well-being.

[De la Maza] Mr. President, trade integration demands political equality. In this sense Europe is an example because, thanks to the existence of democracy there, integration has been very successful.

Do you think that the great poverty in Latin America is a serious threat to the democratic systems and therefore to the integration we are seeking?

[Salinas] I think that poverty is a risk for democracy because one must understand that democracy is not just a political system, but a way of life that is based on the permanent improvement of the standard of living. This is why if we want to continue to strengthen democracy, we must answer the demands for the well-being of our peoples. We need answers that are neither paternalistic nor populist, but of clear popular content. They must encourage the participation and organization of grassroots organizations. This means there must be a democratic content in the answer to the problems of the those who have less.

[De la Maza] Mr. President, the democracy that exists in Mexico has been repeatedly criticized. It is said that the electoral fraud will continue and that the election registry system is not solid.

[Salinas] We have made considerable progress in those fields. Our most recent election registry, which we prepared with the most modern statistic methods, cost more than $400 million and was verified by several domestic and international expert firms. In the field of political structures for democratic progress, our internal historic circumstances are playing a relevant role.

[De la Maza] Regarding Cuba, the country that is in the news lately, do you think it will progress toward democracy soon?

[Salinas] Well, we are very careful not to tell other countries what to do with their internal reforms. Now, I think that concerning internal domestic affairs the Cuban people will probably take into account the new international circumstances. The new world order of political forces, whether one likes it or not, also influences the internal development of the people.

[De la Maza] Most of the Mexican PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] governments followed the Estrada doctrine [policy advocated by Mexican Foreign Minister Genaro Estrada in 1930 which rejects the idea of granting or withholding the recognition of a state or government for political reasons]. Thus, their diplomatic relations are maintained with countries rather than with governments. This explains to a good extent the maintenance of relations with Cuba. Now, this was not the case of General Pinochet's government in Chile when relations between Chile and Cuba were severed.

[Salinas] Our international policy is based on principles. Regarding Mexican-Chilean relations, it is very satisfactory for me that after resuming relations a few months ago we have taken such a big step in such a short period

of time. I refer to the signing of a free trade treaty. This shows the speed with which deep changes are being made in our region.

[De la Maza] Unfortunately these relations are not reflected in the problems suffered by Chilean and Mexican travelers who need visas. I understand that Chileans must wait a long time to obtain visas to travel to Mexico. This is a pending problem. Have you considered some kind of solution?

[Salinas] Yes, I am sure that all obstacles should be removed from our relations. This is why I have given orders that as of today the requirement of visas be suspended for Chileans who want to visit our country. They will continue to be welcome in Mexico.

[De la Maza] Finally, Mr. President, I would like to ask you about your impressions of this visit to Chile which you are now concluding.

[Salinas] There is always a good reason to come to Chile, given the warmth and generosity with which the Chilean people received the president of Mexico. It has been pleasant. This is my second visit to this great country and I want to tell you that I am returning to my country with the desire to come back to Chile.

[De la Maza] Hopefully for a longer period of time.

[Salinas] I hope so.

[De la Maza] Thank you Mr. President for this interview.

Argentine Defense Minister Views Bilateral Ties

PY2009140491 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Argentine Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez hopes that Chile and Argentina will be able to overcome mutual suspicion and distrust. Erman Gonzalez attended yesterday's military parade as a guest.

The Argentine defense minister appreciated the fact that the two nations understand they have a common destiny. Borders must not be viewed as a divisive factor but as a uniting factor, he said.

Gonzalez thus emphasized the economic integration process between the two countries whose presidents signed a broad treaty on economic complementation and cooperation in August 1991. The Argentine minister trusts that (Argentina's) Congress will approve this treaty by an overwhelming majority.

The treaty has a supplementary document with solutions to the 23 pending border problems between the two nations that was criticized in some Argentine political sectors.

According to Gonzalez, everything will be overcome at the political and foreign relations level.

Gonzalez added that in his country the Armed Forces and security forces will observe all resolutions made at a political level.

Officials, Lawyer View Arrests in Letelier Case

PY2509021091

[Editorial Report] Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish at 0030 GMT on 24 September carries 8.5 minutes of reportage on reactions to the arrest of General Manuel Contreras and Brigadier Pedro Espinoza, who were indicted by Judge Adolfo Banados for alleged involvement in the assassination of former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier and U.S. citizen Ronnie Moffit.

In a four-minute report, attorney Sergio Miranda Carrington, who previously defended Contreras in the same case, states that the United States instigated this new pressure.

Miranda says: "There is pressure, just as there was pressure in the poisoned grapes case. The arms and fingers of the United States are very long. I believe in justice, but I believe more in the power of the United States. I believe there is no place in the world where the shadow of the United States does not reach."

In a 30-second report, Justice Minister Francisco Cumplido expresses the hope that this event will add prestige to the Chilean justice system.

Cumplido says: "We hope this will be the most effective action and that this investigation will give us prestige. We are convinced that the most important point is that there will be a court that will investigate and pass judgment, a court that will be a guarantee of independence and tranquillity for both the Chilean and international communities, especially for the U.S. Government."

In a four-minute report, acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas points out that clarification of Orlando Letelier's assassination will allow the restoration of confidence in the country's basic institutions.

Vargas says: "This crime, the investigation and clarification of which were delayed for so long, affected all of Chilean society. It has affected Chile's international relations. The case must be clarified not only because of relations with the United States, but, as President Aylwin said, because it is a moral imperative. Therefore, if justice is meted out—as we hope, as we presume will effectively occur—it will restore confidence in our basic institutions."

Statute of Limitations Void

PY2209025491 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Jorge Burgos, chief of the Interior Ministry staff, said today that as a lawyer he believes the statute of

limitations is not applicable to the murder of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier because sufficient evidence was produced in the case.

Burgos declined, however, to state the government's position on this case. He said no one should pass judgment on cases that are still under the jurisdiction of a court. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the charges filed against Manuel Cabieses, director of the magazine PUNTO FINAL, Burgos said Cabieses was charged with violating the State Security Law.

[Begin Burgos recording, in progress] ...because an offense was committed against the Army commander in chief. This is the reason for the criminal charge filed yesterday before the Santiago Appellate Court. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 2259 GMT on 21 September says in a 400-word report that "in its latest edition, the magazine published a doctored picture showing Pinochet wiping his nose with the Chilean flag under a headline reading 'Cynical and Sadistic,' and wondering what the government and Congress are waiting for to demand that he resign."]

Letter of Intent Signed by Defense Ministers

PY2409141891 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Spanish Defense Minister Julian Garcia and Chilean Defense Minister Patricio Rojas signed a letter of intent during an official visit by the Chilean defense minister to this Iberian nation.

During a three hour meeting, the ministers agreed to improve mechanisms for the exchange of information and to develop activities in the field of operational and technological-industrial defense cooperation.

The ministers added that by enhancing the exchange of information and activities, possibilities for Chilean-Spanish cooperation will be defined.

Rojas and Garcia intend to enhance relations in the field of instruction, technical education, training, and proficiency through exchange programs.

The ministers are also studying means of cooperation in the development, production, and supply of defense materiel and logistic support.

The Chilean and Spanish defense ministers state that, through this letter of intent, they renew and expand the traditional ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

After meeting with the Spanish defense minister, Minister Rojas visited the Spanish Army staff building.

The newspaper EL PAIS published remarks by the Chilean defense minister under the headline: The Man Who Makes Pinochet Come To Attention. The Chilean defense minister is quoted as saying that the concerns of the Chilean people are not centered on Gen. Pinochet but on living and working in peace and security.

Christian Democracy Rejects Intervention

PY2109220891 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 7 Sep 91 p 9

[Excerpt] Senator Andres Zaldivar, president of the Christian Democracy [DC], said yesterday that Government House manipulations to intervene in the DC's internal affairs are unacceptable. He was referring to the alleged manipulations of candidacies.

Zaldivar said that to exacerbate an electoral struggle with so much anticipation "is madness," and he linked this observation with a document presented in the most recent DC Ideological Congress allegedly launching Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley's candidacy as party president with the government's sponsorship. [passage omitted]

Guarantee for Foreign Trade Deals Eliminated

PY2109145891 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] The Chilean Government decided not to renew the state guarantee for short term foreign trade deals made by public or private organizations.

According to the Finance Ministry, the decision was reached due to the normalization of the foreign debt. Therefore, any transaction carried out as of 1 January 1992 will no longer enjoy the state guarantee. This guarantee was granted when the foreign debt crisis began in 1983 during successive negotiations with foreign creditor banks.

The government, due to the current good economic situation believes that all foreign trade deals should also be regulated by the rules used by the voluntary financial markets.

British Agents Investigate Journalist's Death

PY2409175291 Madrid EFE in English 0248 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Santiago, Sept 22 (EFE)—British intelligence agents are in Chile to investigate the suspected murder last year of a British journalist after a Chilean judicial probe into the case was closed, according to Chilean press reports Sunday [22 September].

The lawyer representing the family of late journalist Jonathan Moyle could not confirm the report and said no such mission had contacted him. Any support from the British government or from intelligence agents is welcome, said attorney Jorge Trivino.

Trivino has suggested Moyle's killing may be linked to international arms dealings, which could explain the alleged presence of British intelligence agents.

A judicial investigation into Moyle's March 1990 death found earlier this month that the Briton was murdered and did not commit suicide as first reported, but the probe was closed at that for lack of evidence.

Moyle, 28, editor of the specialist magazine Defence Helicopter World, was found hanging inside a wardrobe in his Santiago hotel room. He was in Santiago to cover the FIDAE [International Air and Space Fair] air show, Latin America's largest military exhibition.

Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma said Sunday that neither the British Government nor its embassy had contacted his department over the Moyle case.

Earlier reports citing sources in Britain said the Foreign Office had ordered the British ambassador to Chile, Richard Neilson, to ask authorities to fully investigate the circumstances of Moyle's death.

Trivino is seeking to have the case reopened in order to obtain testimony from two people he believes may be key to solving the murder.

One is a former Iraqi agent, named as Ahmmed, who told a British journalist that Moyle had been included in a black list compiled by Iraq's secret service for supposedly having acquired too much knowledge of Iraqi military secrets. In another possible lead, an alleged Spanish arms trafficker, Antonio Terol, had reportedly tried to get close to Moyle during his stay in Chile and left abruptly following the killing. But in a letter to a Madrid newspaper earlier this month, Terol denied ever having met Moyle and said he was in Chile at the time to sell advertising space for an international publishing group.

Colombia

Police Inaugurate Air Surveillance Patrols

PA2509001491 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Report by Miguel Cotte]

[Text] The authorities have inaugurated a new patrol system to counteract the worrisome wave of insecurity that affects Santa Fe de Bogota. The plan to fight crime includes air patrols and 20 public security areas [consejerias zonales de seguridad]. Starting today, Santa Fe de Bogota residents have a new form of surveillance—the National Police will patrol the city from the air. For 12 hours a day, two helicopters will support the police operating on the ground and will follow suspects in the various cases.

With this measure, the metropolitan police intend to guarantee the security of Santa Fe de Bogota residents and assist in fighting crime, which has increased over the past few days.

[Begin Police Commander Colonel Ramon Jaime Samudio recording] This is a decisive factor for the security of the city of Santa Fe de Bogota. The National Police are committed to giving security to the community. [end recording]

The measure will also serve to help deal with city traffic congestion. A public security office will also be inaugurated. The National Police currently have 94 helicopters for air patrols.

* Poll Shows Choices in Presidential Election

91SM0496C Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Aug 91 p 3A

[Text]

Pastrana and Navarro Into a Second Round

According to a poll conducted by the CNC [National Consulting Center] for EL TIEMPO and Caracol, if a successor to Gaviria were to be chosen today, Antonio Navarro would get the most votes but would have to run in a second round against Andres Pastrana. The trend that the polls reveal is as follows: Navarro's support is declining, Gomez is holding steady, while Samper and Pastrana are moving up. Serpa and Lloreda are cornering voter support for vice president of the republic.

For the first time in the country's history Colombians may be going to the polls in a second and final round of balloting, as provided for in Article 190 of the new Political Constitution, to choose between two presidential candidates from movements that cut across parties: Antonio Navarro Wolff and Andres Pastrana Arango.

In other words, the name of President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo's successor would not be known until a second election, three weeks after the first, and the traditional political parties, the Liberal and Social Conservative parties, as well as the National Salvation Movement (MSN), would be out of the running for president.

What is more, they might not even be competing for vice president if one of their representatives is not Navarro's or Pastrana's running mate in the first round, because Article 220 of the new constitution forbids changes in tickets for the second round.

In short, the next elections for president and a return to the selection of a vice president could become another episode of the "upheaval."

We can infer all this from a poll that the CNC conducted for EL TIEMPO and Caracol. One of the questions was whom people would vote for if the elections were held

today and the candidates were Andres Pastrana Arango, Antonio Navarro Wolff, Ernesto Samper Pizano, and Alvaro Gomez Hurtado.

The findings were: Navarro, 31 percent; Pastrana, 24 percent; Samper, 21 percent, and Gomez, 15 percent. Six percent of the 770 respondents would not vote for any of them, and the remaining 2 percent are still undecided or did not reply.

The fact that Navarro would get the most votes if the elections were held today does not mean, however, that he would ultimately be elected president. This is because if no candidate obtains one-half plus one of the vote, a second, decisive round will be needed, under Article 190 of the constitution. Alliances would play a decisive role at that point.

Only the top two candidates from the first round would run in the second, according to the poll Navarro and Pastrana, accompanied by the same vice presidential candidates as in the first ballot, who can belong to a different political party.

There is still more, however. According to the poll, Navarro remains in first place, although his support is down from previous polls, whereas Samper and Pastrana, particularly the latter, are on the rise, and Gomez is doing more or less as well as he has been. The findings of a previous poll, also conducted by the CNC and published in the magazine SEMANA, were as follows: Navarro, 34 percent ; Samper and Gomez, 16 percent; and Pastrana, 13 percent.

Who and Where

It is interesting to note, moreover, who supports each of the candidates.

According to the poll, Navarro's constituency is basically the lower class (42 percent), where most of Pastrana's supporters are middle class (28 percent). Gomez and Samper get most of their support from the upper class, 26 and 23 percent respectively, although support for the latter in the middle class is practically the same.

Navarro's biggest potential vote comes from young people between 18 and 25 (38 percent), whereas the Colombians least likely to vote for him (18 percent) are 55 and older. Pastrana's constituency is quite homogeneous; people from 18 to 55 years of age would vote for him in equal numbers (24 and 25 percent).

Samper has his biggest support (38 percent) among the 55 and older group, while Gomez' backing is among voters from 40 to 55, albeit without significant differences between this and other age groups.

Barranquilla is Navarro's political stronghold (58 percent), whereas in Medellin, Santa Fe de Bogota, Cali, and Bucaramanga, the other cities in which the poll was conducted, his support at most reaches 33 percent (Medellin).

Pastrana's largest potential vote is precisely in Medellin (32 percent), and so is Gomez' (18 percent); their support is comparable in the other cities. In contrast, Samper has his strongest support in Bucaramanga (33 percent).

A comparison of the results reveals something odd. Pastrana is the only one of the four who would garner more votes from women than men (29 versus 19 percent). Navarro is also backed by 29 percent of the so-called weaker sex, while 20 percent of the women polled would vote for Samper and 13 percent for Gomez.

Which Candidate?

Samper unquestionably has the most support among respondents as the Liberal Party's candidate for president, although Interior Minister Humberto de la Calle Lombana also has a good image. Two polls have shown as much.

When the respondents were asked which of the two they would rather see as the Liberal candidate, 64 percent said Samper and 21 percent De la Calle.

The two were then included on a longer list, and Samper again came out on top by 42 to 16 percent, followed by former Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds (11 percent), Juan Martin Caicedo Ferrer, the mayor of Santa Fe de Bogota (10 percent), and Foreign Minister Luis Fernando Jaramillo and Jaime Castro with 5 percent. Nine percent said none of the above, and 2 percent did not answer.

Pastrana was far and away the choice for Conservative candidate with 50 percent, compared to 32 percent for Gomez.

What About Vice President?

There are also clear preferences for vice president.

In the case of a Liberal, the respondents would like to see Horacio Serpa Uribe. If he is a Conservative, they would like Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo. Both were big winners in this preference poll.

Choosing from a list of potential Liberal vice presidential candidates, 35 percent of the respondents chose Serpa, followed by Carlos Holmes Trujillo, Fuad Char, and Carlos Lleras de la Fuente, a member of the National Committee of the MSN, all with 9 percent. Then came Julio Cesar Sanchez, the ambassador to Mexico, with 8 percent; Julio Cesar Turbay Quintero (5 percent), Alvaro Uribe Velez and Fernando Botero Zea (4 percent), and Jose Blackburn (1 percent). Twelve percent did not support any of them for the job.

The backing for Rodrigo Lloreda as a possible Conservative candidate for vice president was also overwhelming: 51 percent, followed by 14 percent for Gabriel Melo Guevara.

Next came Roberto Gerlein (9 percent), Rodrigo Marin Bernal (5 percent), and Carlos Martinez Simahan (1 percent). Nineteen percent did not opt for any of them.

The poll was not limited to a choice of presidential and vice presidential candidates. The public's opinion was also sounded out on the upcoming 27 October elections, when a new Congress will be voted in and, for the first time, governors will be chosen at the ballot box.

Although names were not mentioned, all indications are that the turnout will be heavy. The reason is simple: 61 percent of the respondents said that they are already registered to vote, and the remaining 39 percent asserted to a man that they would register as well.

How Was It Conducted?

The poll was conducted by the National Consulting Center on 6 and 7 August in the cities of Santa Fe de Bogota, Medellin, Barranquilla, Cali, and Bucaramanga among 770 persons.

The respondents were chosen from among citizens 18 years of age and older, both male and female, representing all social strata and political persuasions.

* Features of Constitutional Court Explained

91SM0496B Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 15 Aug 91 p 5C

[Report by Edgar Torres: "Government Would Have Voice in Defending Laws"]

[Text] For almost three decades chief executives and congressional leaders have felt limited in defending the legality of laws and decrees before the Constitutional Court in an attempt to prevent an adverse ruling. The situation could change considerably in the future.

From now on, cabinet ministers or representatives of the Senate and House may be able to speak up in defense of laws, at the request of the full Constitutional Court and for the sole purpose of answering questions.

There are also arrangements for the direct involvement of the president and Congress in proceedings to determine the constitutionality of a law. The Executive and Legislative branches may also take part through special representatives.

These and other options are provided for in the draft decree regulating the workings of the Constitutional Court. Presidential adviser Jose Manuel Cepeda and other members of the administration's team are preparing to submit the decree soon for the consideration of the Legislative Commission or "little Congress."

Henceforth the Constitutional Court will review laws ratifying international treaties and calling plebiscites, referenda, and popular consultations, among others. It will also rule on the legality of degrees issued under a State of Emergency.

Among the most innovative aspects of the draft decree that the Executive Branch is preparing is the opportunity for the court to suggest ways of correcting minor defects and to rule on all of the provisions in a law, not just the ones that have been challenged.

The draft decree consists of 50 articles and sets the requirements for submitting unconstitutionality suits to the Constitutional Court, as well as the procedures that the court will follow to hand down a final decision on each case.

Thus, suits must be received within five days and will be submitted by the magistrate who heard the case. At that point, when necessary the magistrate may begin a 10-day period to gather evidence or information.

At the conclusion of this period, the court will transfer the case to the Office of the Attorney General so that it can render its opinion.

The magistrate hearing the case will have 25 additional days to submit his report, and the full court will have 30 extra days to hand down the final ruling.

However, the draft decree provides for the shortening of these periods when the matter under study involves the legality of laws calling referenda or popular consultations, for example.

Ministers on the Attack

As was said, the decree also enables the Executive and Legislative branches to defend laws and to correct minor defects in the processing or enactment of a law.

In the first case the draft decree states: "The president of the republic or Congress, directly or through a representative specially chosen for this purpose, if they so deem appropriate, may submit in writing, within 15 days following notification of a challenge, arguments in support of the constitutionality of a law being examined."

Another article says in the same connection: "Any magistrate may propose, before deliberations begin, that whoever drafted the law and the complainant be summoned to a hearing to respond to questions deemed appropriate in order to amplify arguments or clarify facts relevant to the rendering of a decision."

As for bills passed by the houses of Congress but vetoed by the chief of state, the Constitutional Court will have to hear the arguments of the representatives of the president of Congress and of the cabinet ministers serving as the chief of state's spokesmen.

This is the first time that an opportunity has been provided to correct laws so that minor defects do not bury the entire package.

"If the court deems that the bill is partly unconstitutional," the draft decree states, "it shall so indicate to the house in which it originated so that, after the cabinet

minister is heard, the provisions in question can be reworded and incorporated in accordance with the court's ruling."

Correction to ELN Faction Joins Peace Process

PA2009165791

The following correction pertains to the item headlines "ELN Faction Decides To Join Peace Process," published in the 20 September Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 60:

Column one, paragraph one, only sentence make read: ...the so-called socialist renewal movement of the Army...(rewording)

Paraguay

Communists Ask For Democratic, Progressive Unity

PY2509015891 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 23 Sep 91 p 7

[Text] The Paraguayan Communist Party [PCP] has issued a declaration that, according to its leaders, is "an appeal for democratic, progressive unity." The declaration notes the need to avoid a "dispersion of democratic forces" so reactionary attitudes will not prevail in the upcoming Constituent Assembly.

The declaration maintains that this unity should allow "the basic principles and rights for which our people have been striving: a pluralist, participatory democracy with social justice and national independence, which is reflected and made inviable" in the Constituent Assembly.

The document adds that "the people's unity—workers, peasants, employees, professionals, intellectuals, artists, students—is necessary to defeat the minority that wishes to perpetuate a system of political and social oppression and the exploitation of a great majority of workers in our country." It goes on to say that "the division and dispersion of popular forces weakens us, and we may suffer a defeat due to a lack of foresightedness. It is never too late to work for unity, even if the deadlines are close."

The communique goes on to say: "It is a question of jointly searching for unity and a broad alliance and sharing leadership of the movement or front, without any of us pretending to monopolize the truth and imposing hegemony. The time has come for a negotiated and participatory leadership. The time has come for the urgent participation of the people."

Although the document is lengthy, the PCP's stance almost seems like an appeal to the internal forces of the United Labor Federation and the independent "Asuncion for All" movement, which, although they are discussing the possibility of an alliance, have still not been able to reach an agreement.

Peru

Economy Minister Announces Readjustment Policy

PY2409175491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0304 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Lima, 22 Sep (ANDINA)—Economy and Finance Minister Carlos Bolona Behr announced tonight that readjustments will be made to the economic policy, in an effort to to encourage the productive agents to start the economic reactivation of the country.

He said that efforts will still be made to lower interest rates and to establish an adequate exchange rate that will make exporting more profitable.

He also said that the important aspects of the economic policy, such as the emergency program, tax reform, and the monetary policy, will be strengthened.

He indicated that there is a need to establish an authentic labor reform. He added: "In the face of the negative announcements made by doomsayers and opportunists, the best thing to do is to confirm the commitment to work for the country and try to overcome backwardness and poverty."

Bolona also emphasized the recent achievement by Peru of being readmitted into the international financial community. He also confirmed that the austerity policy will continue to be inflexible.

During a television interview in a political program he said: "We have to persevere in our efforts."

Bolona defended the stabilization program implemented by the government of President Alberto Fujimori, indicating: "Had that program not been implemented, the social cost would have been more serious."

He said: "The cost of hyperinflation and imbalances is much higher than the adjustment itself."

During the interview, Bolona called on businessmen and workers to increase production in their respective areas.

Bolona said that the government will continue its policy of providing clear rules and that the negotiations should be oriented in that direction.

Regarding the privatization of public companies, Bolona admitted that there is some delay but that efforts will be made to find a solution by closely coordinating with the ministries involved in this issue.

He noted the unprecedented terms obtained by Peru in its readmission into the international financial community. He announced that $400 million will come as fresh money for the 1991-1992 period to carry out projects of national interest.

Bolona pointed out that Peru is no longer an outcast and that it can now obtain international credits. He

explained in detail the procedure followed by the support group, the IMF, and the Paris Club.

He indicated that $1.1 billion was obtained from the support group, of which $700 million can be used freely to satisfy the needs of the country.

He said that the agreement reached with the Paris Club was a great achievement. He explained that the grace period on the Peruvian debt, which totaled $5.5 billion in 1983, has been rescheduled from eight years to 10 years, and that the payment period has been increased from 10 to 15 years.

He added that the debt which since 1983 has totaled $1.1 billion has been refinanced and will be paid off over six years starting in 1993.

Bolona pointed out that rescheduling the foreign debt will allow the country to develop with more favorable terms and to negotiate at the bilateral level with the countries that make up the Paris Club. It may be possible to get the debt pardoned, or to arrange swap agreements, debt for investment, donations, or a significant reduction of the debt through an agreement in the antidrug struggle.

He reiterated that these agreements are returning to Peru the image of a country with credibility, a country which has full access to foreign resources, thus ending the regrettable stage of an outcast country which caused a disaster in the economic and social life of the country.

Bolona said that the agreements reached are better than those reached by countries like Poland and Egypt. He added that this was due mainly to the way in which the tax issue was handled in the national and international policy of President Alberto Fujimori.

Bolona added that after the readmission period, which lasted 13 months, the government will continue its active work to get new resources mainly from European countries for the remaining of this year.

He said: "Now the ball is in our court and whatever we can get will depend on us. Therefore, we will continue to work actively to get new resources."

Bolona said that although a great effort was concentrated in the country's readmission into the international financial community, the work in the internal sector was not let unattended.

Commission Reduces Charges Against Alan Garcia

PA2409232591 Paris AFP in Spanish 0231 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Lima, 23 Sep (AFP)—On 23 September, a Peruvian Chamber of Deputies commission decided that it is suitable to file constitutional charges in the Senate against former President Alan Garcia; however, it reduced the charges against him from four to two.

The decision by the commission, chaired by conservative Antero Flores Araoz, was presented on the evening of 23 September to the plenum of deputies. It states that charges of illicit enrichment and actions against the public confidence should be brought against Garcia, but acquits him of the extortion and tax evasion charges.

Defense Minister Admits Shining Path Presence

PA2509005191 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Defense Minister General Jorge Torres Aciego has admitted, for the first time in public, the presence of Shining Path rebels in the central highway zone—particularly at the Felix Jorge Raucana settlement. The defense minister admitted this fact following the violent incidents on 23 September at the central highway; he added that this is the rebels' reaction to the fact that the people endorse the civic actions of the Army, which undermines the position of the subversives.

[Begin recording] [Gen. Torres] The Shining Path rebels are trying to cause problems. They believed that this community would support them, but they have realized that it does not. In fact, the people are praising the Army's civic actions and the Shining Path rebels are desperate.

[Reporter] The events which occurred this morning indicate that Shining Path rebels are still present in this settlement or in surrounding areas.

[Gen. Torres] Of course. This settlement has practically been consolidated by Shining Path members, who are concerned because the people's attitude toward the Army has changed. This is something that worries these subversive forces very much.

[Reporter] Will there be more civic action projects in other settlements where the infiltration of the subversives is confirmed?

[Gen. Torres] We are conducting civic action projects in settlements not infiltrated by subversive forces. You have seen that we are also active in the universities; and we are now working at Lima's maternity hospital. In other words, we are willing to cooperate with the citizenry wherever it is suggested or requested—not only where it involves cleaning and painting. This also includes medicine and odontology activities, like the ones we have completed within our civic action visits to the villages. [end recording]

Venezuela

* Foreign Minister Duran on Regional Relations

91SM0490A Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 16 Aug 91 p 6A

[Interview with Minister of Foreign Affairs Armando Duran by Cenovia Casas; place and date not given]

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Armando Duran granted EL NACIONAL an interview in his office—the same one used by the two previous foreign ministers who served under Carlos Andres Perez (CAP) before him. It is the office that was graced by Simon Alberto Consalvi, currently our ambassador in Washington, and also that used by German Nava Carrillo. Sitting in the very seat to which many others within his party aspire, the former minister of the Secretariat of the Presidency who enjoys the confidence of CAP and, unlike some of his predecessors, does not like to talk for the sake of talking, spoke with us on the basis of the principles governing some of the main issues, which will occupy his attention in the course of the last four months of this year, as well as others that have been on the front pages of the newspapers in recent days.

[Casas] Will Venezuela continue to insist on a rapprochement and dialogue between the United States and Cuba?

[Duran] Precisely. This is the Venezuelan position. Now that the cold war has ended, Cuba is not a strategic point either for the United States or for Venezuela, and what must be sought is a method of reintegrating Cuba into Latin America. And almost all of the Latin American countries agree on this.

[Casas] President Cesar Gaviria said that an interesting phase was approaching in the dispute between Venezuela and Colombia, but that what would be lacking in this phase would be political will. How do you interpret these statements?

[Duran] There are too many factors that have an effect on the Colombian problem. In the minds of most of the public, the Colombian issue is limited to the question of the Gulf, while the truth is that there are many other equally important matters to take up with Colombia, such as the hydrographic basins, navigation of the rivers, the boundary markers—a whole list of subjects, which are being studied in a comprehensive manner. And all of the issues that may arise in the future must be dealt with on the basis of the maturation, analysis, negotiation, and the national process in Colombia and in Venezuela.

Thus I believe that the political will does exist. How can it fail to exist? The problem is reaching these agreements and work is being done on this. More specifically, I believe that the best indication of political will is the existence of the binational commissions and the high commissions, which are made up of leading personalities from Colombia and Venezuela who are above all suspicion, and who represent the entire Venezuelan political spectrum at the highest level.

And in addition, every agreement reached in the future, and this is something on which it is necessary to insist, must be like all of the agreements concluded by Venezuela with the approval of the Congress of the Republic. There is talk here about Venezuela's negotiation or conclusion of agreements, not just with Colombia, but with any other country or instance of agreements, without consultation. No, that is not the way it is done. First there is consultation, to the extent that consultation is possible, because this is, moreover, one of the attributes of the president of the Republic. But on the other hand, no treaty to which Venezuela agrees has validity unless it has the approval of the Congress of the Republic, which represents the broadest political consultation.

Thus there is here a whole series, regrettably, of preconceptions and prejudices with regard to treaties or agreements that might be concluded by Venezuela, and I am not referring only to Colombia, which reflect failure to take the institutional and political realities of the country into account. No one should think that Venezuela can conclude an agreement with any party behind the country's back. Every agreement must necessarily go through the Congress of the Republic.

The criticisms being made in Venezuela about the negotiations with Colombia have to do with our proceeding too rapidly, while the suggestion in Colombia is that we are going to move into an interesting phase wherein political will is lacking—and that despite our excellent relations, the problem of the Gulf remains.

I believe that Colombia, as well, has accepted the fact that there is an overall problem, and this is the reason we have the binational commissions to resolve the problems. And we will proceed to settle matters to the extent that this can be done. I believe that on the part of the government of Venezuela and that of the government of Colombia as well—based on what I have heard in these months I have headed the foreign ministry, as well as what I have been able to observe—that that there is on both sides a very clear political will to reach agreement on everything, which does not mean that this will happen. The political will is one thing, and whether this political will can be made specific in an agreement that satisfies both parties and has political and consensual support is another.

This is the reality, but the political will is there. The problem is that it is very difficult to measure it, because there is no apparatus for measuring the level of political will. However, what I have been able to see and sense—because what one must do with regard to political will is feel it—is a very clear political will.

[Casas] Are there plans for the presidents to meet again in the medium- or short-time range, as a demonstration of this bilateral political will to deal with the problem?

[Duran] Bilateral talks are held at all of the multilateral meetings and all of the summit meetings, including our own. This is the response of the two presidents over the course of these two years, to the appeal urging that there must be meetings, which was made by President Perez when he took office. And in these past two years, both at the meetings of the Andean Pact and those of the Rio Group, bilateral talks have been held. Now Guadalajara has been added to the meetings of the Rio Group type.

As the Guadalajara meeting will be held every year, this will also provide a favorable framework for the presidents' bilateral meetings.

[Casas] As will the United Nations (UN)....

[Duran] There too, the presidents meet, although their schedules do not always coincide.

[Casas] CAP will meet with Collor and with Bush. There will be a meeting with Bush....

[Duran] Well, the Norwegian and Malaysian prime ministers will also be there. This is a scheduling problem. The fact that the times coincide does not mean that they will meet, not because they do not want to, but because each chief of state has his own very complicated schedule. But at gatherings such as the Guadalajara, Andean Pact, and Rio Group meetings, things are much simpler.

[Casas] And will President Perez issue a message this year putting special emphasis on the United Nations, as he did last year?

[Duran] Well, I assume so, but it is still a little early to say. Last year it was a question of the proposal of the producers and consumers, at which many people scoffed. However, this produced a magnificent result, because not only did a meeting result, but also, on that basis—although it was not made a regular event—there is now a plan for a similar meeting next year in Oslo. Thus we are quite pleased in this connection. And all of this is a part of a national foreign policy that has to do with integration.

The Internationalization of Politics

Minister Duran took advantage of this opportunity to discuss the concern that has been in his mind and to emphasize the framework—even philosophical, if you will—of the diplomatic policy of CAP.

[Duran] I believe that one of the most important statements made on foreign policy—and one to which the press has not assigned due importance, in terms of analysis—was that included in the speech given by President Perez to the Congress last 5 July, when he explained what he means by foreign policy. In addition, his statement was extremely clear and precise. He said that we cannot in any way think, at this time when both politics and economics have been internationalized in such a surprising and spectacular manner, at a moment which is historic for mankind because of the profound and dizzying changes—we cannot think that we can resolve the domestic problems of each country, above all our small countries in the process of development, without making ourselves a part of these major trends that are shaking up the world, which are transforming the world.

In order for us to be able to resolve the serious problems of the developing countries, the countries in the process of development must make a gigantic effort to become a part of these great trends. No one can hope to survive in this world in isolation from the rest of it. The fate of each of our countries is irreversibly linked with the fate of the rest of the world. This is why we are making the efforts in which we are engaged in the realm of integration and cooperation.

And it is not a question of Latin American integration and solidarity alone. The reason for what has been occurring in precisely these recent years is not that there is greater political will than before, but because the needs of the moment, and also Venezuela's links and relations with the rest of the world, make it necessary for us to advance along this path.

The Trip to China

[Casas] You are to travel to the People's Republic of China in October. What is the purpose of this diplomatic mission?

[Duran] The purpose of this visit to China is to attend a meeting with the ambassadors in the area. What we must do is to develop a strategy for rapprochement with Southeast Asia. Obviously, Southeast Asia is very distant, but this does not mean—on the contrary, the Southeast Asian countries are like us, although obviously, they have a much more definite process of development. We must join with them, because they represent an economic reality of tremendous importance in the world. And we must affiliate with them, because without the slightest doubt, they represent an economic reality of enormous importance. Just as we must join with Europe, both on the level of the European Economic Community and on the level of the consumers and producers.

We understand, as someone said to me there, that there are ever more dances in the world today, and we are invited to all of them. However, I believe that this is one of the great opportunities for a country like Venezuela—to be able to participate in and play an active role in so many dances. Because this is precisely what is going to open up for us the possibilities for development in this decade of the 1990's.

[Casas] Among these numerous dances in which Venezuela is participating, there is one of constant concern to President Perez. The summit meeting of the Nonaligned Countries Movement (NAM) is approaching. You will not be able to attend, because you will be at the SELA [Latin American Economic System] meeting, and I understand that the goals of the movement are being reconsidered.

[Duran] Yes, since the Belgrade meeting, which gave rise to the Group of Fifteen, given the new realities in the world, the NAM must also modify its guidelines. At the time leaders such as Tito, Nasser, and Nehru conceived the NAM, we were in the midst of the cold war, the East-West confrontation, and this was a movement that attempted to put a great distance between itself and this clash. This era has now passed. Changes have occurred, and the NAM needs to orient its development in a new

direction. This was the reason for the report of the South Commission, which produced an alternative for the NAM. It is, in the final analysis, that being pursued by the Group of Fifteen, and it involves veritable South-South cooperation. To date, we have advocated maintaining North-South relations, but beyond these relations, which will always be characterized by asymmetry, we must seek South-South cooperation, within this same process of integration and rapprochement. And, operating from this point of view, the Group of Fifteen must serve as a fundamental factor, and we, for example, have already made progress.

The case of Venezuela and Malaysia, a country with which we have succeeded in developing extremely close relations within the framework of not only political rapprochement, but also economic rapprochement, is a very specific instance. The visit Prime Minister Mahatir paid us, and mine to Kuala Lumpur at the end of April; the definite possibility of establishing a refinery for heavy and extra-heavy crude oil, and a product distribution and storage center in Southeast Asia; the building of a palm-oil plant; the visit of the minister of agriculture to Malaysia; and the fact that the prime minister is returning to the meeting of the Group of Fifteen in November in the company of businessmen—because there is closer affiliation not only between the governments of these countries, but also their production sectors—all of these things are contributing in an extraordinary manner to the development of Venezuela.

Thus it is within this entire framework that foreign policy must be viewed. Now foreign policy is beginning to be something different. It is not limited to the traditional diplomatic relations, which are naturally there and always will be, for there is also an economic aspect today. The fact is that results are not seen immediately. With a garden, one must plant the flowers and water them, and then, after a time, they bloom. The basic orientation is that pertaining to economic and trade relations.

I feel that in this connection, the foreign ministry has reached a high-water mark in its foreign policy, not only where Venezuela is concerned, but also on an international level, with a president who has and has always had this vision of what this policy should be. I believe that we are advancing, and that these years of the 1990's will be of fundamental importance. And the domestic fate of Venezuela—I believe that this must be emphasized—will depend on the success of what we are trying to do in this matter of our foreign relations.

Economic Diplomacy

[Casas] Don't you think that in this interdependent world, the reverse is also true—that the fate of the foreign policy and this economic diplomacy we are developing depends on what we do domestically?

[Duran] Of course. This is the reason we are involved in everything that is being done in Venezuela. You cannot separate the two aspects. Domestic and foreign policy are parts of the same structure. If we had not undertaken all of the economic reforms that are in progress in Venezuela, we would not be able to join in these great trends, which are shaking up the world today. We could not speak of integration, of intensive relations, of projects, if we were not committed to extremely profound trade reform in Venezuela. For how could we hope that the frontiers of other countries would be open to us if we failed to open ours? Our customs barriers have overprotected Venezuelan industry, resulting in a series of internal imbalances, while at the same time preventing our products from reaching other countries, because this is a reciprocal problem.

[Casas] In the case of the United States, for example, did the trade message from Bush communicated during the visit paid by Quayle and Mrs. Hills satisfy Venezuela?

[Duran] It is not a question of satisfaction or lack of it. We believe that there is indeed a political will on the part of the United States. These are problems that do not depend on decisions made by the government of the United States, but on U.S. legislation, and they must be resolved by other means. I believe that they are being resolved. I am optimistic about this. For example, in a specific case such as that of the mangoes, there has already been a resolution, and a large volume of mangoes is being exported. There is a great international demand for tropical fruits. Little by little, all of this is being resolved. But if our desire in this matter of trade relations is to promote foreign investments in Venezuela and to promote Venezuelan exports to foreign countries, we will have to adapt our economy in order to attract this capital, whose owners have unlimited choices as to where to invest it. Because Venezuela is not the only country in the world where this capital might be placed, and so then, we must be competitive.

Caribbean, Central American Relations

[Casas] Next week, the prime ministers of Dominica and St. Lucia, countries that are awaiting maritime boundary decisions, will be in Caracas. We are signing a treaty with Trinidad that is advantageous to us. Will negotiations be undertaken with these two other islands? Is Venezuela interested in finally delimiting its maritime frontier?

[Duran] Well, we came out well, and Trinidad did, too. What is important in these agreements is to complete the resolution of some problems that still exist there, concluding a process that will help to clarify positions. What I would emphasize concerning these visits is the process of rapprochement and integration Venezuela is pursuing with the Caricom [Caribbean Common Market].

[Casas] What is now being called the Perez Initiative, and which the Caricom began to discuss this week....

[Duran] Since this is a process, it is not something that will be approved or rejected. It is a process. Look at how long it took us to join the NAM. What is of interest to us

is proceeding in greater depth with the policy of integration and rapprochement that is very concretely evidenced, for example, by the free-trade agreements in the Caribbean and in Central America.

Venezuelan policy with regard to Central America has passed through several stages. At one time it involved gifts, offers of money, while in other periods it has been eminently a policy of participation in such regional mechanisms as the Contadora Group and Group of Eight, in order to contribute to national reconciliation. And now the emphasis is again being placed on the economic aspects.

Naturally, what is of interest is cooperation with these countries. What is involved is avoiding a policy with a double morality. We cannot demand that the developed countries treat Venezuela fairly if we do not ourselves provide fair treatment to other relatively less-developed countries. This is a problem of ethics and justice. We cannot attempt to use our greater relative development to take advantage of other countries which not as well-developed, relatively speaking. We must offer the same treatment as we ourselves want to receive. This is a first point. A second is that we cannot aspire to active trade development with the zones closest to Venezuela, such as Central America and the Caribbean, unless we contribute to their development. To the extent that the countries in the Caribbean and Central America can speed up their economic development and make it more profound, our economic and trade relations will improve. It is not a question of gifts, but of mutual commercial interests.

* Police Reorganization Meets Continued Delays

91SM0495A Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 13 Aug 91 pp 28-29

[Article by Elba Romero Lopez]

[Text] While crime grows unchecked—even if it already far exceeds anything one could imagine—and police action remains at a disadvantage given the resources and sophisticated means available to wrongdoers, debate of the Police Law drones on. Nor is there any immediate prospect of its passage, even if it was first proposed over 30 years ago!

Specifically, two proposals—among many others—seek to establish some order and coherency on the subject, one proposed by the Interior Policy Commission and the other by the Presidential Commission on Governmental Reform (COPRE).

Concerning the former, its passage was promised for the recently concluded term of regular sessions of Congress, but thanks to the many scandals that occupied and finally monopolized the attention of legislators—as no other issue of major national interest could do—reorganization of the police continued to await the announced legislative approval.

The COPRE proposal, which is far more complete than the previously mentioned measure, will never go beyond the stage of a mere outline of good intentions, given the lack of attention on the part of those who, in the final analysis, have the last word on its approval.

Seeking Order

As stated, both draft proposals seek improved organization and operation of our country's police agencies, but even though they pursue the same end, they contain differences in form and substance that make the COPRE proposal apparently more suitable for effectively achieving the objective set forth.

For example, the Interior Policy Commission's draft Organic Federal Police Law seeks to combine and centralize police agencies into a single body either under the Ministry of Interior Relations or the Ministry of Justice or a Ministry of Federal Police to be set up for that purpose.

In contrast, the COPRE proposal makes it clear that it never intends to combine these bodies, "but rather, to grant proper legal recognition to police agencies with competence on the national level and in the states and municipalities in accordance with the process of decentralization under way in the country."

This Organic National Police Law would also set up means of coordination to ensure the best possible operation of agencies responsible for providing law enforcement and security for all citizens.

The congressional document assigns extremely broad duties to the Federal Police, ranging from maintaining law and order to providing emergency action in cases of public disasters and catastrophes, controlling and eliminating drug and narcotics trafficking, and providing civilian security forces for former presidents, high officials of the national government, and other prominent figures, along with other powers, including control of immigration activities.

In contrast, the Presidential Commission on Government Reform clearly defines the specific functions of each police agency and grants legal recognition to police organizations with competence on the national level, to wit: the Technical Judicial Police Corps, whose powers are spelled out in the Code of Criminal Procedure and other special laws; the General Sectorial Directorate for the Identification and Control of Foreigners, which, as part of the organization of the Ministry of Foreign Relations, has police powers in this area; and the General Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services (DISIP), an organ of particular importance to government security and the guarding of prominent officials, whose creation and existence have heretofore been based on a presidential order.

Operation of state and municipal police agencies is defined based on the new system of decentralization, which sets forth parameters to be followed for the

organization of state and municipal police forces, as provided in Article 134 of the National Constitution.

National Police (GN)

Both proposals make the president the supreme authority of the Federal Police in the former case and of the National Police Service in the latter. It might be said that this opens the door to potential politicization of the police function.

Both proposals seek to clearly define the functions of each police agency, but it can be observed that in the case of the Federal Police, when it is assigned so many and such dissimilar functions, this definition is rendered difficult in practice and continues the juxtaposition of functions instead.

The COPRE proposal is more explicit and clearer in this sense, stating as a prime objective that each agency should assume those powers belonging to it, "without invading spheres of competence belonging to other agencies distinct from itself." For example, it holds that DISIP and no other body should be responsible for providing security for officials by virtue of the features characterizing that police agency.

It also draws a clear distinction between the country's police agencies, classifying them as national or belonging to the federal and municipal entities, with specific functions in each case.

Concerning the participation of the National Armed Forces (FAN) and fundamentally the National Guard, it emphasizes the vital role they play in helping to maintain law and order, devoting an entire chapter to them (Section VII), separate from the other specialized police agencies.

For COPRE, the National Guard "is the true national police," although, due to the special characteristics of this military body, it stipulates that it is not part of the country's police agencies, but rather, as a military institution, belongs to the FAN (the Interior Policy Commission proposal relegates its participation to environmental protection activities).

The draft Organic National Police Law assigns the FAN their proper role based on their importance and individual functions within the framework of the military rank attributed to them, without this being any obstacle to their taking action on matters of security and the criminal police, particularly in terms of helping to maintain law and order when police agencies are overwhelmed by events.

On this basis, the National Guard (Article 100) "will take action on matters of security and law enforcement throughout the national territory, in accordance with military law and its provisions regulating functions of cooperation and without infringing upon powers which, in this sphere, are within the exclusive competency of governors and mayors in their respective territorial spheres.

In rural areas (single paragraph, Article 101 of the Organic National Police Law), operational units of the GN will engage in continuing action to preserve the safety of agricultural, livestock-related, and other activities. In urban areas, when asked to cooperate and provide support, its operations will be aimed at preserving and guaranteeing security and public order, preventing and fighting crime relating to the production, storage, and trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances and the investigation of such cases, and maintaining statistics and records on national crime problems.

It will provide necessary support to courts of justice whenever required for the enforcement of their decisions, as provided by the Code of Criminal Procedure, Judicial Police Law, and the Organic Law on the Judicial Branch.